



## **1 - Tools:**

Knife - The knife best suitable for car wrapping is a retractable standard light-duty knife. The knife should hold the blade securely to ensure that cuts are made precisely and to minimize the possibility of cutting the body of the vehicle. Avery does not recommend the use of an X-ACTO knife or a box cutter for vehicle graphic installations.

Blades - The approved blades are standard AB blades with either a 45 or 30-degree angled tip. Recommended manufacturers are NT Cutter and Olfa.

Squeegee - The properties of the squeegee used for applications should be a combination of firm and flexible. The best Avery squeegees for vehicle graphic installations are the Avery Pro – blue and red. The blue squeegee is firm and is best used for flat surfaces and full print digital wraps. The red squeegee is soft and best suited for curved surfaces and color change films, particularly sensitive finishes like matte or textured. For best application, the squeegee must have a smooth nick free edge.

Squeegee buffer - All squeegees must have a buffer to keep the film from being damaged during the application process. There are a wide variety of buffers available. The keys are to find a buffer that minimizes scratching and aids the application process. Avoid buffers that are too wide and uneven such as female Velcro. These buffers apply film improperly because the buffer absorbs the force applied to the squeegee. Avoid buffers made from paper, as they tend to overly scratch. The most important factor with any buffer is to make sure that it is in good condition before the application begins. A dirty or worn out buffer can result in scratches and improperly applied film.

Propane Torch/Heat Gun/IR Heater/Steamer - The film can be heated up during the installation process with either a self-igniting propane torch, electric heat gun, IR heater or steamer.