

12 - Compound Curves:

Compound curves on vehicles can generally be found on fenders, bumpers, mirrors and door handles. It is critical that these areas are properly applied in order to achieve professional level quality and durability.

Improper Method: The method for compound curves that leads to the highest failure rates is heating the film up and pulling it forcefully over the compound curve or bridging the film over the area and forcing it in. This approach can overstretch the film, which puts too much pressure on the adhesive layer to hold the position on the vehicle.

Proper Method: The best method for compound curves is to a combination of techniques: triangle method, cold pre-stretch, and pre-stretch.

The key for compound curves is to spread the film out in a triangle shape and anchor the corners first. This will lay the film flat on the curve then it can be squeegeed to the surface, avoiding adhesive lines and whitening/distortion. Before cutting, installers should always add light heat to the edges. This will cause the film, which has been stretched around 3-5% to shrink back. This significantly helps relax any tension on the edges which will help ensure long term durability.

