

13 – Inlays/Overlays



Inlays are separate placements of the film on key areas that work in conjunction with larger sections of film. Inlays help to minimize overstretching and increase the durability of an install. They can be used to help reduce overstretching on deep recessed like on the bumper pictured above or for raised objects that cannot be removed like this door handle.

Overlays are pieces that go on top of the main panel being installed. These are often found at the top of back bumpers and at the edges of mirrors. These panels help reduce fingering and can easily be replaced if damaged from natural wear and tear on the wrap.

Consider These Factors for Inlays and Overlays:

Cutting: When cutting, the installer will be trimming off the excess film on the body of the vehicle. The installer must always be sure to use extra caution when cutting the film directly on the vehicle. If the installer does not feel confident about cutting on the vehicle, then cutting tape should be used. The overlap should be around 1/8 inch wide.

Overlap Direction: When possible, make overlaps on inlays/overlays face in towards the body of the vehicle. This will help hide the overlap visually and helps to keep moisture/dirt from building up on the edge and fingernails or other objects from catching the edge. Since most digital full print installs will use gloss DOL, this can be a standard rule of thumb.

Surface Energy: What trumps direction of the overlap is the surface energy of the film that will be on the bottom layer. The film that has the highest surface energy should always be applied first and the weaker one second. For example, if the top of a back bumper is getting a carbon fiber overlay and the main body is gloss, gloss goes on first. If a deep light area on a front bumper is getting matte black and the main body is gloss, gloss goes first.