



Understanding VINYL

What is Vinyl?

The word "vinyl" comes from the chemical name polyvinyl chloride or PVC for short. Common PVC products are bottles, records and some types of plumbing pipe. Vinyl is widely known as a soft flexible material used mainly for upholstering furniture and automotive interiors. This form of vinyl is plastisol made of PVC resins, fillers and plasticiser oils. Plasticiser oil is a petroleum by-product that gives vinyl its flexibility.

A wide range of vinyls are produced for different purposes, both with and without fabric backing. Some vinyls have a darker vinyl ink applied to their top surface to obtain a two-toned effect and to protect the heavily plasticised vinyl underneath. In higher wear areas such as seats and arm-rests, this ink wears off and the vinyl beneath is subject to soiling and accelerated wear. Motor vehicle manufacturers have used this type of vinyl to create more interesting interiors

How can I care for vinyl?

Sunlight, heat and dirt breakdown most vinyls. The colour of some automotive vinyls fades very quickly on exposure to sunlight. Shading vinyl from sunlight will greatly lengthen its life.

Heat also has a detrimental effect on vinyl. This is especially true for vinyl dashboards. With intense heat the plastisol oils leave the vinyl in the form of a gas, which can sometimes be seen as a fine film around the edge of the windscreen. Ultimately the vinyl becomes hard and cracks. To protect your vinyl, keep it as cool as possible by shielding it from heat. You can actually stop damage by conditioning the vinyl with plastisol oils to counteract migration. New Life has a purpose designed unique product.

Dirt/dust and grit can do great damage to Vinyl. Clean your vinyl with a mild cleaner and soft cloth.

Pen marks should be quickly cleaned off. Biro and texta marks that are left on vinyl migrate right into the plastisol and cannot be removed.

Always test cleaners on an inconspicuous area to make sure they do not dissolve the surface coat of the vinyl.

Perspiration and hair oils can also accelerate the hardening of vinyl. Covering armrests and headrests on vinyl upholstered furniture will decrease the chance of these areas cracking in the future.

Can damaged vinyl be repaired?

Yes! New Life Repair Services has researched and developed equipment and compounds that successfully repair all types of automotive and upholstery vinyls with excellent

results. Repairing small tears and scuffs, stain removal, refinishing and recolouring vinyl are processes that are available to you at a fraction of the cost of reupholstering or replacement. Service can usually be carried out on-site for your convenience. Care Kits are available to clean, restore plastisol, condition and protect.

Contact your local New Life Repairs for fast, friendly service and an obligation-free quote.

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