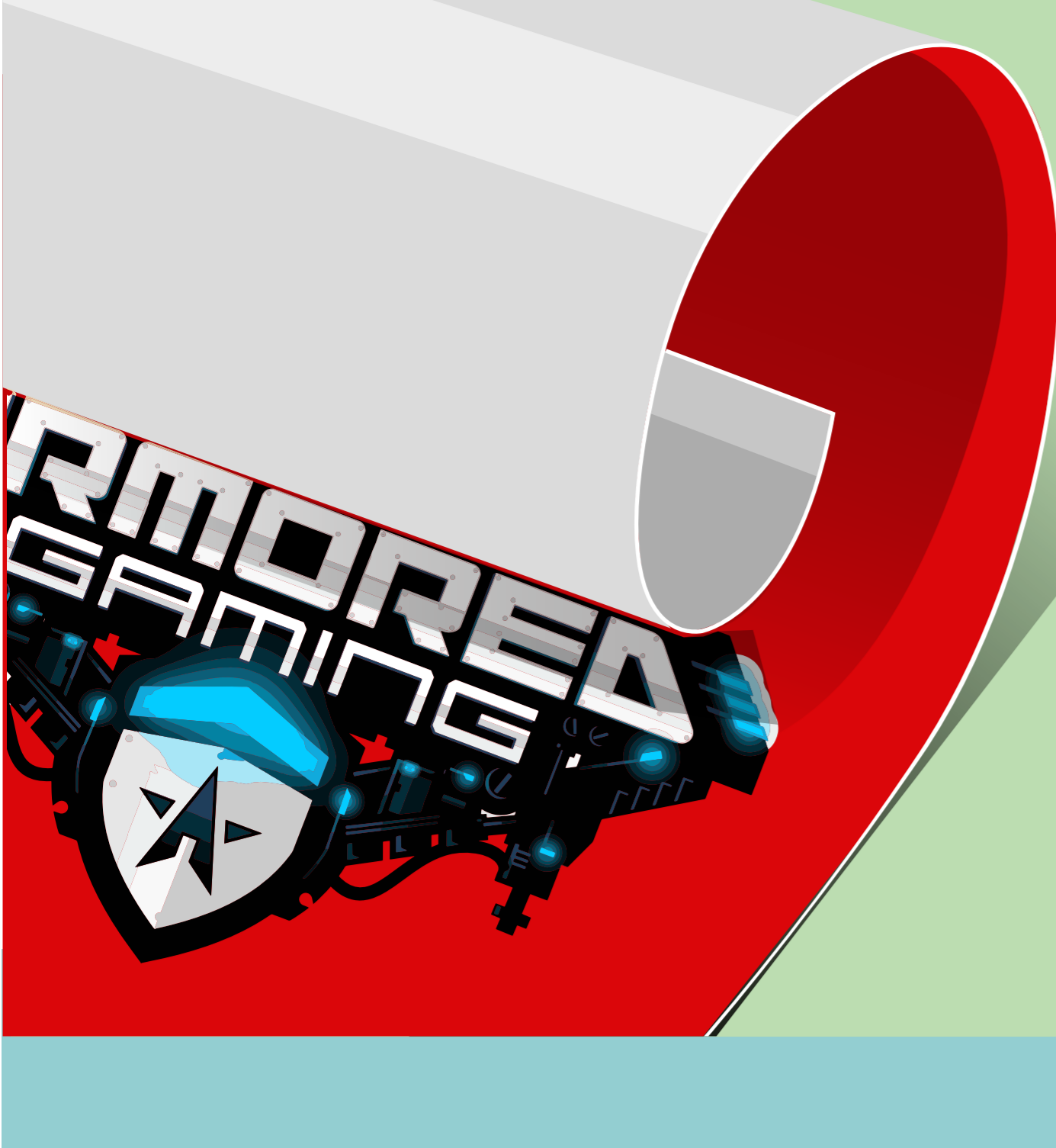


# VEHICLE WRAP GUIDE



## PRE-APPLICATION



### BRING THE VEHICLE IN AND CHECK FOR:

- Damage - photograph all damage, rust and problem areas
- Modifications - this could cause previously recorded data to be incorrect
- All other body issues - they cost you time and money so price accordingly
- Potential problem areas that could affect the design



### REMOVE MIRRORS AND MOULDING WHEREVER POSSIBLE

- It could take less time to remove the mirror than to wrap around it
- Offers cleaner results
- Caution: some mouldings and mirrors are easily damaged and are better left on
- Seek professional advice and use technicians to remove parts if needed



### VEHICLE PREPPING ESSENTIALS

- Measure everything - digital templates are not always 100% correct
- Where possible, fix up minor scratches and rust
- A pre-delivery vehicle steam clean is advised
- Thoroughly clean with alcohol and paint cleaners - remove any trace of previous wrap adhesive

## TOOL ESSENTIALS

### HEAT GUN

Manipulates vinyl, removes memory and fixes vinyl in position.



### CUTTING BLADES

Must be sharp enough to cut without pressure and through the vinyl without reaching the paint. To achieve this, replace or snap off blades several times during installation.



### SQUEEGEE

Have multiple types: one with rounded edges for body areas and a stiffer squeegee for flat surfaces. Cover tips in felt liners to prevent vinyl damage.



### CLEANING SOLUTIONS

Solvent and separate alcohol-based cleaners for surface preparation are recommended. Use degreasers and wipes for tough grease, grit and grime.



## OTHER POPULAR TOOLS

### GLOVES

You're using heat guns - it's a smart move to protect your hands.

### MAGNETS

Act as a "second pair of hands" for holding and positioning.

### KNIFELESS TAPE

Wire trimming tape is placed beneath the vinyl and pulled to cut straight lines. Protection tape is placed on mouldings and body details as a scratch barrier.

### BUTANE TORCH

Not to be used instead of a heat gun but a useful tool for troublesome areas that need a great, quick burst of heat.

### SAW CORD

Two handles attached by a filament line is used to remove items like badging plates without scratching the paint underneath.

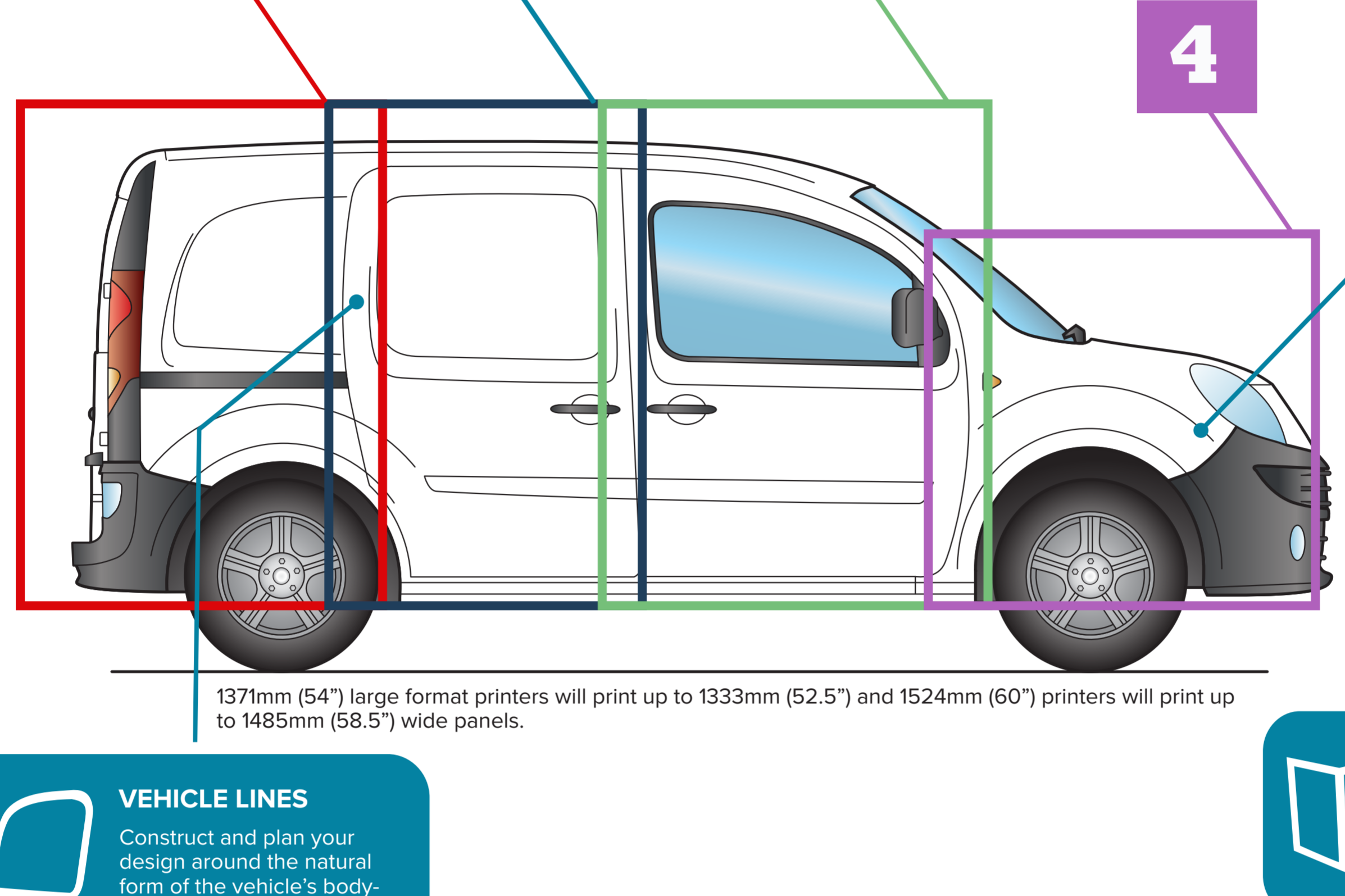
## PIECING IT ALL TOGETHER

A common vinyl-laying strategy for van graphics



### 12-PANEL STRATEGY

Compact commercial vehicles (like the one pictured here) typically take around 12 vinyl panels - averaging around 1320mm (52") in width\* (depending on vehicle make).



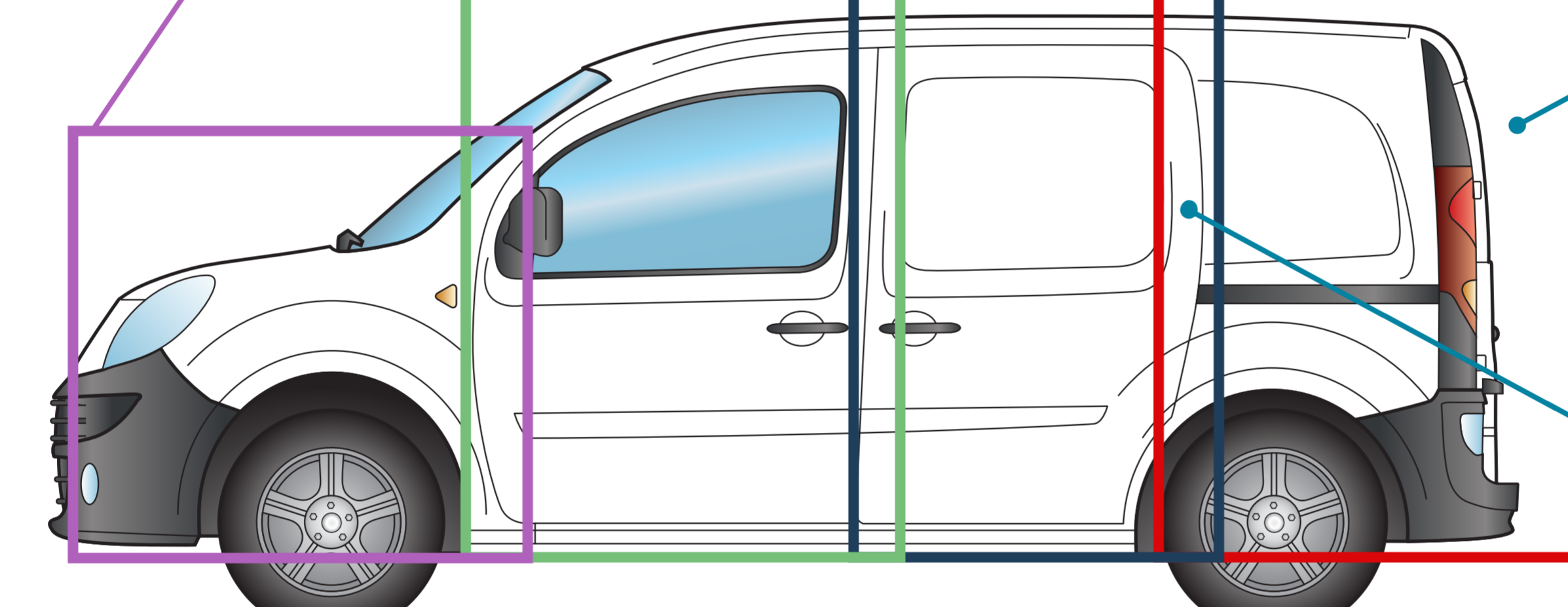
1371mm (54") large format printers will print up to 1333mm (52.5") and 1524mm (60") printers will print up to 1485mm (58.5") wide panels.

### VEHICLE LINES

Construct and plan your design around the natural form of the vehicle's bodywork - let the vehicle guide your decisions.

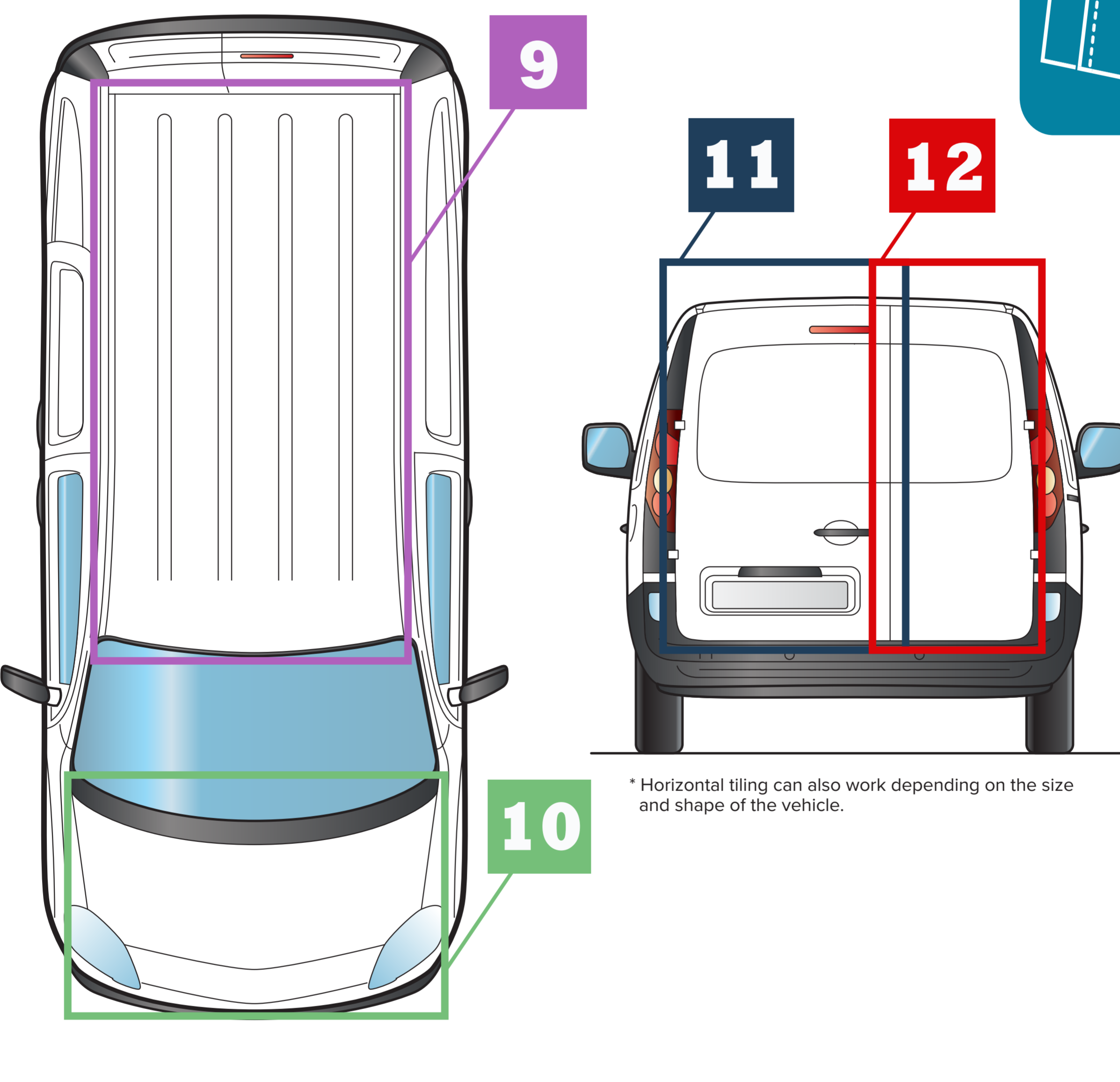
### WRAP AROUND THE BACK

Print your bleed to easily wrap around the rear of the vehicle.



### HIDING SEAMS

Use the vehicle's bodywork to hide your seams. Smart placement of seams along the vehicle's natural lines produces the least noticeable seams.



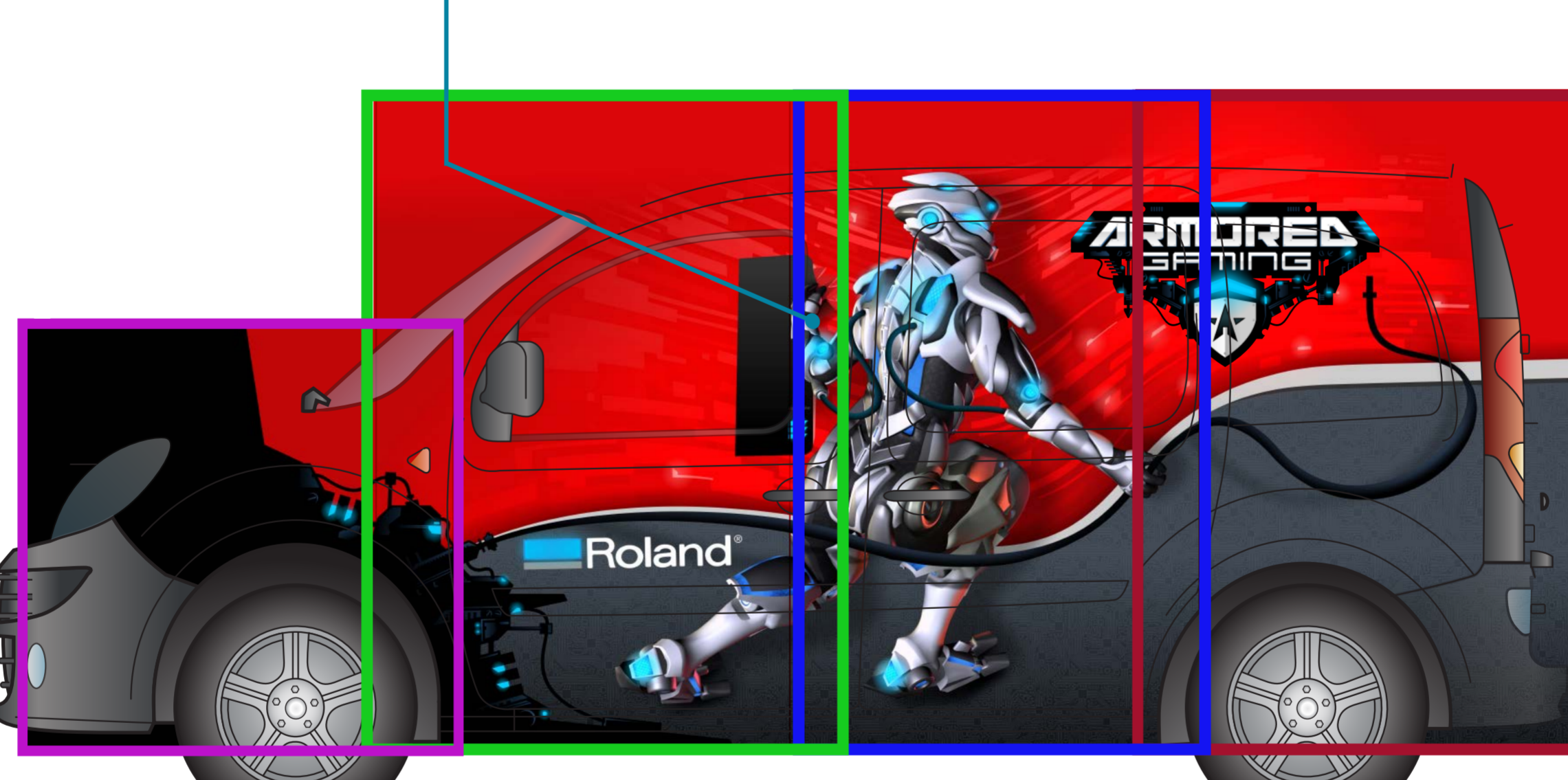
\* Horizontal tiling can also work depending on the size and shape of the vehicle.

### DESIGN HARMONY

The most successful vehicle wraps are designed around the vehicle lines. Graphics that are designed independently from the vehicle bodywork and then forced to fit, rarely work as well.

## LAYING IT DOWN

Example of an ideal design and placement on a vehicle



\*When tiling, work back to front and bottom to top for a tighter seal against wind and rain. For boats, work top to bottom.

## BEWARE OF COMMON ERRORS

### PATCHING IS A BAD HABIT

It may be possible to make a small patch repair on occasion, but generally speaking, don't do it. If you have no other option, patch underneath the primary vinyl piece, not on top.

### DULL BLADE PROBLEMS

Trimming errors can often be avoided if you regularly change your blade so it's always sharp.

### PROBLEMS LATER

Bubbles leading to cracking and peeling can happen weeks after a wrap is completed. This can be caused by poor quality materials but also by overstretching, overheating, skipping the heat process, unhooked edges and other errors made through lack of proper training.



### WRINKLES FORMING

Most wrinkles can be eased out with correct heat application and installation skills.

## AVOIDING ERRORS



### USE ONLY HIGH-QUALITY MEDIA & EQUIPMENT

A high-quality Roland eco-solvent printer combined with high-quality vinyl ensures easier installation and better results - including longer lasting colours and less likelihood of issues.



### STORE YOUR VINYL PROPERLY

Rolls should always be stored in a plastic sleeve in a cool, dry place protected from sunlight and dust - not exceeding 30°C (86° F).



### GET PROPERLY TRAINED

Wrapping is an art and you need expert tuition and guidance to avoid pitfalls and to learn how to properly design a wrap, print, and install it. Practical hands-on wrap experience, sales and design tips as well as printing and aftercare is covered in our Roland DG Academy Vehicle Wrapping course.



### TIME AND PATIENCE

Don't rush, don't cut corners, and be willing to re-print and re-lay vinyl when errors occur. Be patient and learn from mistakes.

Selective information courtesy of the vehicle wrapping experts at



and



Infographic courtesy of



Discover more about design, printing, vehicle graphics and vinyl wrapping at [www.rolanddg.eu](http://www.rolanddg.eu)



Roland's two-day Vehicle Wrapping course is an excellent way to gain real hands-on wrap experience whilst learning top tips and tricks from an industry expert. Find out more about the Roland DG Academy at [www.rolanddg.eu](http://www.rolanddg.eu)