



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Car and Boat Wrap Scams Heat Up

Warm Weather Lures Victims with Promise of Easy Money

Chicago, June 2nd - If you are looking to earn extra money, adding a wrapper to your car or boat to promote a popular drink or food brand may sound like a great gig. With temperatures rising and [BBB Scam Tracker](#) is seeing an uptick in these cons, often most popular during the Spring months, and as the pandemic has made finding a job even more difficult. But no matter how tough your job search has been, don't fall for this scam.

Steve Bernas, president and CEO of BBB Chicago and Northern Illinois, says the scams often occur when someone is looking for a job, and you receive a text message or find a website promoting what seems to be a great gig. A major brand is paying people hundreds of dollars a week to wrap their car with the company logo." Recent Scam Tracker reports mention food brands [RedBull](#), [Utz](#), and [Breyers](#). A substantial new trend is scammers have expanded to making offers to wrap boats in the warm season

The scam continues when the victim fills out a form to apply for the gig. Soon after, your new "boss" texts you with instructions about how to get started. The boss will mail you a cashier's check, which you should deposit to cover your expenses. Then, pay a local vendor through [Venmo](#) or [Cash App](#), and they will install the wrapper on your car. Sounds easy enough, right?

The catch is that the check is a fake! If you deposit it, it will appear as if the money is in your bank account. But when the bank realizes the check is counterfeit, you will be on the hook for the balance. In the meantime, the phony car wrapping company will have taken your money and disappeared.

One victim reported to [BBB Scam Tracker](#): "[The scammer] told me to put the check check in my account and pay @[Redacted] in Venmo once the check cleared. When the check cleared, I sent her \$3,500. I waited two days for someone to come and wrap my car, but no one came. When I contacted them, they kept making excuses."

How to avoid a car wrap scam:

- **Know your rights and responsibilities when it comes to using checks.** Banks will make the funds from a check available before the money is actually transferred into your account. If you spend the money and the check is a fake, the bank has the right to recover the funds from you. Finding out about a bad check can take weeks, so it's best to wait 30 days before spending the money from a check if you have any concerns about it. [Learn more about check scams.](#)
- **Use money transfer apps with friends:** Protect yourself from scams by only using money transfer apps for their intended purpose -- sending money to people you personally know.
- **Know the red flags of job scams.** Watch out for on-the-spot job offers. You may be an excellent candidate for the job but beware of offers made without an interview. An honest company will want to talk to a candidate before hiring. Be careful if a company *promises* you great opportunities or a big income under the condition that you pay for coaching, training, certifications or directories

For more information

Learn more about [fake check scams](#) and read our [tips for using digital wallets](#), such as Venmo and Cash App. Also, learn more about [scams targeting job seekers](#).

If you've spotted a scam (whether or not you've lost money), report it to [BBB.org/ScamTracker](https://www.bbb.org/ScamTracker). Your report can help others avoid falling victim to scams.

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About BBB:

BBB of Chicago and Northern Illinois is a nonprofit organization that has served both consumers and trustworthy businesses for over 95 years and is a part of the IABBB. We help protect consumers from scams and provide a free database for consumers to see business ratings and reviews to find businesses they can trust. We help promote trustworthy businesses and strive to provide tools to help businesses of integrity excel. The International Association of Better Business Bureaus (IABBB) is the network hub for BBBs in the US, Canada and Mexico. Like BBBs, IABBB is dedicated to fostering honest and responsive relationships between businesses and consumers -- instilling consumer confidence and advancing a trustworthy marketplace for all.