



**This simple guide will help you when applying your vinyl graphics. However, the key to success is to ensure that you *don't rush!!!***

Vinyl graphic application is recommended in temperatures of between 16°C to 26°C. If possible, apply graphics indoors to help control temperatures as well as reduce the amount of wind and dust you have to contend with. The room and surface temperature can greatly impact your application. A higher temperature will make the film softer and more pliable, but also makes the adhesive more aggressive and "grabby" which certainly isn't helpful and can lead to pre-tack and increased stretching if you try to reposition the film. Lower temperatures will make the film more rigid and brittle and reduce the tack of the adhesive. Applying in either of these extremes can make your application more difficult.

**Things you will need:**

- Suitable cleaning fluids and lint-free cloths (IPA - Isopropyl alcohol or methylated spirit works best)
- Tape measure / ruler
- Masking tape
- Suitable squeegee

**Step 1: Ensure the surface is clean.** It is vital that all surfaces are clean and free from grease, wax, dust and dirt etc.. There are many cleaning solutions available which will do the job. The best procedure is to clean with a detergent followed by a light clean with a methylated spirit, or IPA (Isopropyl Alcohol) to remove any wax or tar **Always check the solvent won't harm the surface before applying in any great quantity.**

**Step 2:** Use masking tape to hold the graphic in position while you measure, and adjust the position of the graphic until it is straight and square (or however it needs to be). Measure the actual graphic and not the application paper / pre-mask as this may not be cut exactly square!!



**Step 3:** Place a small piece of masking tape at one end of the graphic as a reference for the fitting position.



**Step 4:** Run a line of masking tape along the other edge of the graphic to create a "hinge".



**Step 5:** Flip the graphic using the masking tape hinge so that it is face down on the surface and slowly peel the backing sheet away from the graphic.



**Step 6:** Keeping the graphic taught, line it up with the masking tape reference fitted in step 3.



**Step 7:** Squeegee the graphic into place.



**Step 8:** Remove the low-tack application paper by pulling it back on itself at a 180° angle. Using this method to remove the application paper will reduce the chances of pulling the graphic back up and possibly causing air bubbles or edge lifting. Once you have removed the application paper, you may wish to go back and re-squeegee the graphic. Be careful not to scratch it.



**Common problems:**

**Vinyl won't stick to the surface**

Is the surface properly clean? Is it dust-free, free from grease, oil or waxy residues? Is it too warm or too cold? Is it wet? Is it a suitable surface (for example, bare untreated wood or concrete are not suitable surfaces)? If you are sure that the conditions are good for vinyl application but it still won't stick, ask us for further advice.

**Despite my best efforts I get loads of air bubbles.**

You generally can't squeegee the bubbles out once the vinyl is stuck down. However it is possible to pin-prick the offending bubbles and carefully push the air out of the pin hole.

**The vinyl won't stick to the application paper - it stays on the backing sheet.**

If you try to remove the backing sheet, but the graphics stay firmly on the backing sheet instead of sticking to the application paper, then you should follow a couple of procedures. Firstly, lay the graphics flat and firmly squeegee the graphics to ensure the application paper has a good adhesive grip on the vinyl. Then you should turn the graphic over so that it is face down and slowly peel the backing paper off at a 180° angle, using your other hand to apply pressure against the vinyl to help it onto the application paper.

**The vinyl has stuck hard to the backing sheet and rips when I try to remove it.**

This may happen if the backing sheet becomes wet or has been cut a little too deeply. Make sure you keep the backing sheet dry during the application. It is particularly important to ensure the surface is dry after cleaning. Another good tip is to remove the backing from the graphic and not the other way round - ie lay the graphic face down and peel off the backing.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch:-

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