

Tools

The following list outlines the recommended tools and materials you'll need to apply your vinyl decal.

1. Squeegee, a credit card may also be used.
2. Masking or painters tape. (duct tape is too aggressive for decal application)
3. Spray bottle filled with application fluid or soapy water.
4. Tape measure or ruler.
5. Denatured alcohol/Prep solvent and Orange cleaner.
6. Clean rag or paper towels.
7. X-Acto knife and pin.
8. Grease pencil.

The **squeegee** is used to smooth the decal over your surface while chasing any air trapped under the decal. Many kinds of squeegees can be used for a variety of applications. Felt squeegees can be used for any delicate job, while vinyl/plastic squeegees range from flexible to rigid.

Your choice in **tape** can have an effect on the success of your decal application. Duct tape is very easy to gum up and smudge your application surface. Yellow painter's tape provides adequate adhesion without leaving adhesive behind.

There are a number of commercial **application fluids** that you can purchase. Many will need mixed with water in order to dilute the solution. If application fluid is not obtainable then soapy water works great in a pinch. Try to stay away from any dish soap that has additives as these will effect the outcome of the application.

If you're applying a decal on a vehicle or another waxed surface, then you will need **denatured alcohol** or a prep solvent. This removes any grease or wax that may be on your surface. If you have any adhesive residue left after removal of old decals then a citrus based cleaner will be needed. If unsure how the liquids will react to your finish, test in a small unseen area to assure that your finish is safe.

A **tape measure** or **ruler** will help ensure that your decal is squared to whatever surface you are applying. When you have measured your decal and secured it with tape a grease pencil is used to mark the corners of your decal to ensure accurate application.

A **clean rag** will be used to wipe away any contaminates. Paper towels may also be used to clean your surface. Before decal application a tack cloth can be used to eliminate the unseen dirt and lint that can ruin a good decal.

An **X-Acto knife** is a solid choice for disposable blades and knives. This will let you make any required cuts or modifications. A sewing pin or hole popper can be used to remove any small pockets of air trapped under your decal.

One of the most important tools to have is **shelter** from the elements. While possible to install in the open no one wants to deal with random gusts of wind and the hot sun stretching the vinyl. If unable to install inside then make sure the temperature is between 50 to 80 degrees.