

Inkjet Water-Slide Decal Paper

There are two types of Inkjet Water-Slide Decal Paper:

- Clear Inkjet Water-Slide Decal Paper gives a nearly transparent finished decal, which means that the colour and texture of the surface to which it is applied will be clearly visible through the finished decal. This decal is best for light coloured, un-patterned surfaces.
- White Inkjet Water-Slide Decal Paper gives a white background to your printed design, obscuring the colour and texture of the surface to which it is applied. This decal is best for dark or highly coloured surfaces.

You will need: clear acrylic spray varnish, a hairdryer, scissors or a craft knife, a bowl of water and a rubber scraper or a lint-free cloth

Create your design

Edit the size and shape of the image you wish to transfer on your computer. Make sure that your image will fit onto your decal sheet and also onto the object you are transferring onto. Test the size and resolution of your image by printing onto plain paper first. You do not need to reverse your image.

Print your decal

Place a sheet of decal paper into your printer feed tray, make sure it is straight and that you will be printing onto the glossy, coated side of the decal paper. Set your print quality to 'Photo Quality' or similar, set the paper type to 'Glossy Photo Paper' or similar, select the correct paper size, then print.

Allow the ink to dry

The printed decal sheet must be completely dry before going onto the next step. Leave it to dry for at least an hour or to speed up the process, heat gently with a hairdryer from a distance of at least 30cm.

Waterproof your decal

Spray your dry, printed decal paper with clear acrylic varnish. Depending on the varnish, two to three coats may be required, check the instructions. Spray from a distance of 30cm holding both the can and the paper upright. Each coat should be thin and even, covering the whole decal. Look closely to ensure you haven't missed areas and allow the varnish to dry after each coat

Allow the varnish to dry

The varnish must be completely dry before going onto the next step. Leave it to dry for at least an hour or to speed up the process, heat gently with a hairdryer from a distance of at least 30cm. When it is ready, the decal should look and feel smooth and dry.

Cut out the decal

Use a pair of scissors or a craft knife to cut out your image. If you are using the white decal paper, any border you leave around your image will still be visible after the decal has been applied. If you are using clear decal paper, you can leave a small border because it will be transparent.

Prepare the decal

Place the cut out decal into a bowl of lukewarm water and soak it for up to 30 seconds. When it is ready you should be able to feel the backing paper easily slipping from the decal transfer but don't remove the backing paper at this stage.

Apply the decal

The surface you are applying your decal to should be clean and free from dust and oil. Wet the surface you are applying your decal to with water. Place the decal face up on your chosen surface. Carefully slip the decal until one edge protrudes over the backing paper. Gently press this edge into place on your project.

Slide out the backing paper

Use one hand to hold the edge of the decal that is attached to the project in place with a gentle but firm grip. Use the other hand to carefully and slowly slide the backing paper out from underneath the decal, leaving the decal transfer to stick to the surface.

Remove water and air bubbles

If the decal is not perfectly positioned, you can use gentle pressure to slide it into the correct position at this stage. Be careful because the wet decal is very fragile. Once the decal is correctly positioned, use a rubber scraper or a lintfree cloth to remove any water or air bubbles from under the decal. Use gentle pressure and work from the centre of the decal to the edges.

Allow your decal to dry

Now leave your decal to dry. If you have removed all of the air bubbles and water from underneath the decal, it will harden as it dries, sticking firmly to your chosen surface. Your decal will take at least 3 hours to dry; if it is cold, we recommend heating the decal with a hairdryer until it is dry to the touch before leaving it to dry further.

Additional Information

- Your decal will continue to harden over time but it will initially be vulnerable to scratching.
- This decal should not be placed where it can make contact with foods or beverages; it could be used to decorate the outside of a mug for instance but should not be used on the rim or interior of the mug.
- Do not soak the finished project for a long time or place it in very hot water because this can cause the decal to soften.
- Do not expose the decal to volatile thinners such as MEK, Xylon, acetone, alcohol etc.

Washing Instructions

To prolong the life of the decal we recommend hand washing your finished project with a soft sponge or cloth and normal washing up liquid or detergents. We do not recommend using scouring pads or metallic scrapers on the decal or putting your finished project in the dishwasher.