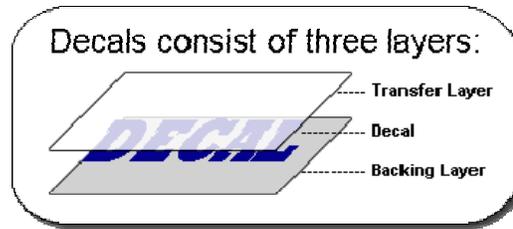


Vinyl Decals – Application Instructions

Decals have 3 layers, see illustration:

1. Top layer is the **Transfer Layer**, like masking or clear tape, used to protect and apply the decal.
2. Middle layer is the **Actual Decal**.
3. **Backing Layer** is the original backing before the vinyl is cut into a decal, removed prior to installation.



Quick DO NOT Tips:

- i. Do not apply in cold weather, adhesive may lift easily.
- ii. Do not apply in extreme heat, apply in the shade, the vinyl will get extremely soft and stretch.
- iii. Do not use alcohol or ammonia-based cleaners to apply, these will destroy the adhesive.
- iv. Do not use anything like an ice scraper on the decal, it may break pieces off and destroy the decal.
- v. Avoid touching the decal's adhesive backing, skin oils will prevent sticking.
- vi. Avoid high pressure washing the decal for an extended period of time as this may damage or lift the decal. **Car washes are safe.**
- vii. Before application, make sure there is no wax, alcohol, or ammonia based products on the surface, this may cause the adhesive to lift easily and prevent sticking.
- viii. Avoid applying wax over decals, especially if the wax contains any petroleum distillates.

Recommendations:

Surface temperatures **MUST** be between 50 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit before installation. Adhesive becomes brittle when it gets too cold and gummy when it gets too hot.

Applications outside the recommended range of 50 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit reduce the ability for the adhesive to perform and adhere properly.

You can choose to apply vinyl in one of two ways; dry or wet.

Applying the vinyl using the dry method does not allow for any mistakes, and is recommended for small decals. Once the vinyl touches the surface, there is no removal without damage.

We recommend using the wet process for all large graphics. **DO NOT** use the wet method on Wall applications or with reflective vinyl.

Application Procedures:

Place the decal on a hard surface, using a plastic squeegee or the edge of a credit card, run it over the decal's top layer to make sure it has good adhesion to the transfer layer. Clean the destination surface. **AVOID** using any ammonia-based cleaners, clean surfaces with water, soap and water, rubbing alcohol. Let surface dry or use a lint-free cloth. Vinyl does not stick well to any oil or waxy surface. Position the decal in the desired location. To ensure good transfer, depending on your comfort level, use a few small strips of masking tape along the top of the decal to secure it to the surface. **Decals have a pressure sensitive adhesive, the harder you rub the harder it sticks, also, the longer you let it sit the stronger the adhesive will adhere.**

DRY METHOD: DRY process is best for smaller decals, once the surface is clean, remove the backing, place in position, use a squeegee or credit card and run it over the decal to assist the transfer from the top layer onto the surface and remove as many air bubbles as possible. When ready, slowly begin to peel away the transfer layer.

WET METHOD: WET process is best for decals larger than 12" x 18" in size, and frosted vinyl. Spray the location with clean or lightly soapy water (add 1-2 drops of liquid soap to the water), remove the backing (ask for assistance to keep the decal from warping or rolling up). Place the decal in position (the wet surface will allow you to nudge the decal into the best position), use a few strips of masking tape to secure in place, use a squeegee or credit card to adhere the decal to the surface, let dry or begin to **CAREFULLY** peel away the transfer mask. **Decal must dry for 24 hours before adhesion is complete.**

NOTE: By using either method, if you see any air bubbles, use the top of your finger nail to squeeze them out. Usually the sun will take care of that for you in a short period of time. If you still see air bubbles, take a sewing needle and pierce a small hole in the center of each bubble and, with your finger nail, squeeze the air out through the pinhole.

WALL APPLICATIONS: The following items can cause either poor adhesion when you apply your graphic, or damage when you decide to remove it:

- Highly textured paint
- Poor initial paint bond or poorly painted edges (make sure your paint isn't chipping or peeling)
- Patched areas that have not been primed
- Dust, dirt or other contaminants on the wall
- **Freshly painted walls that have not had time to cure** (We recommend at least 2 weeks, 3 weeks is best. If you have questions on how long it takes your paint to cure, contact your paint supplier). Vinyl graphics tend to bubble and release from the wall if the paint is still in the curing process.
- Moisture behind the drywall, which can cause the drywall paper to release. Watch for walls that back up to cooling systems, water pipes, overhead windows and windows that have been boarded up. These areas are prone to condensation that may not be obvious at the time of installation.
- High humidity area
- Wallpaper or other wall covering that is not securely bonded to the wall

DECAL REMOVAL: Begin by heating one corner of the marking with a blow dryer, heat lamp, hot water or heat gun until hot to the touch. Pick up and lift that area you just heated (use a razor only on glass surfaces). Slowly begin pulling back the decal, at less than a 90 degree angle. Continue applying heat to the area just before the area that is being removed. Once you have removed the marking, check to make sure that all of the adhesive residue has been removed. Remaining residue may be removed by using Isopropyl Alcohol (rubbing alcohol).