

Tricks of the Trade

DECAL APPLICATION METHODS

1. Clean the area where the decals will be applied with a soft cloth dampened with denatured alcohol or Windex. This will remove any wax, oil or dust particles that will prevent the decal from sticking. If you have access to a pressure air hose blow off the area where you will apply the vinyl.

1a. Some decals are easier to apply by using regular ½ inch wide masking tape to create a hinge on one of the edges of the decals application tape layer. This method keeps decal position. Once you've done that flip it over and remove paper backing.



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2. Carefully peel the tape and decal away from the paper backing. Hold the decal in position and stick the top or one side holding the other side up away from the surface. If you have created a hinge then your decal is already being held in position. Rub the entire area beginning at the top or side that is on the surface (hinged part) and rub firmly from one side to the other using your squeegee fingertips or the sharp edge of a credit card. The decals have a pressure sensitive adhesive the harder you rub the harder it sticks.

3. Remove the application tape by pulling gently in a downward position. If a part of the decal starts to come up away from the surface rub it back down while the tape is still on, then proceed to remove the tape.

Note: The decals will not adhere to a surface that has been waxed. Remove all wax and residue with Windex or denatured alcohol before application. After the decals have been applied, the surface can be waxed over.

Note: Consider how hot the surface is you are applying the decal to. Surface temperature between **60 to 75** degrees is recommended and can be necessary. When surface and outside temp is too hot, decal may stretch and shrivel when attempting to remove application tape. **If you get air bubbles in the vinyl take a pin or needle and puncture the bubble to release the air. Use your card, squeegee or finger to push air bubble to pinhole. Only worry about bubbles that are larger than 1/4 inch. any smaller bubbles will eventually disappear. Vinyl material is VERY POROUS air escapes easily with hot and cold weather. It basically expands and contracts and works the smaller air pockets out by itself after awhile.**

LARGE FORMAT DECAL APPLICATION

1. For large decal application, hold the decal in position and stick the top or one side in place. Then using the squeegee working your way from top to bottom with firm pressure to prevent any air bubbles. When applying extra large decals we recommend getting someone to hold the decal in position while the other person squeegees it into position. Sometimes it makes the install easier if you splice the decal at each body seem. If you are uncomfortable with the process you may consider professional installation at your local sign shop. **We will not be held liable to replace decals due to improper application so if you don't have the experience then pay a professional.**

WET APPLICATION METHOD

1. Mix up a spray bottle water with a few drops of liquid dish soap. Spray the area where decal is to be applied. Some installers spray the back of the vinyl also. Make sure you remove the paper backing **FIRST**.

2. Remove the backing and place the decal, still attached to the transfer tape, to the thoroughly wetted surface. The decal can now be moved and repositioned correctly, as it will slide on the thin film of solution trapped between the vinyl decal and the surface.

3. If you are doing a windshield decal and need to curve the letters Cut the tape between the letters about 3/4 of the way from top to bottom with a knife and position the letters where needed. Do not cut all the way through, this will mess up the spacing between the letters. When the decal is in the final location, use a small squeegee to squeeze the water and soap solution out from under the decal. The transfer tape will protect the decal during this process.

Note: Be sure to squeegee as much solution as possible from under the decal. Take your time, because if not enough solution is removed from under the decal, it will not adhere to the surface enough to allow the easy removal of the transfer tape. Squeegee tool is recommended, also the water can be removed using your fingers or soft cloth. When finished with the squeegee, the transfer tape can be carefully removed.

4. Work the decal with your fingers and a soft absorbent cloth around the edges to remove any remaining solution.

5. Warm weather is best for all decal applications. If there are bubbles present under the decal that cannot be removed by working them to the edge of the decal with your fingers, then a small pin or needle can be used to puncture the decal at the bubble, and remove the air. After you squeegee the decal down spray the top of the decal to wet the top tape layer and squeegee more gently. This will help to loosen the top tape layer from the decal. After doing that let the decal dry to the point that the top tape layer is dry or mostly dry and then slowly pull the top tape