

# Installation Instructions for Vinyl Graphics, Striping, Decals, and Lettering

## Supplies Needed



A few drops of dish soap in warm water



Clean, dry, lint-free cloths or paper towels



Isopropyl Alcohol (if available)



Masking Tape



Tape Measure and a pencil



Application Squeegee



Exacto Knife or Scissors and a needle



Hair Dryer or Heat Gun (Optional)

## Environment Recommendations

The surface temperature should range from 50 to 90 degrees to achieve the best results. If the surface is hot to the touch it's probably over 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Adhesive becomes brittle when it gets too cold and gummy when it gets too hot. Applications outside the suggested range of 50 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit decrease the ability of the adhesive to perform. Outdoor application is discouraged but can be done when winds are less than 10 mph. Blown dirt, dust or other contaminants can interfere with the bonding of the graphic adhesive to the vehicle during installation.

## Wet or Dry?

Applying vinyl with a light mist of application fluid on the surface allows for repositioning and reduces the chance of bubbles and wrinkles. The dry method does not allow for any mistakes. Once the vinyl touches the surface, there is no removal without damage. **The Wet Method is STRONGLY suggested for beginners.**



Wash the surface with the solution of dish soap and warm water then rinse with water. Dry the area with a clean, lint-free cloth or paper towel. Wipe down the entire area again with Isopropyl Alcohol to remove any contaminants and promote the adhesion process. Dry the surface a final time with a fresh lint-free cloth or paper towel.



Determine the location where you want the vinyl transfer to go. Use a tape measure and a pencil to help center the item in the space available. Secure each end or corner with a piece of masking tape.



Apply strips of masking tape vertically to the center of the vinyl transfer, over the premask. This creates a hinge allowing the graphic to be applied one section at a time.



Remove the positioning tape from one end of the vinyl transfer and hold down the release liner while slowly peeling the premask away back towards the hinge. The vinyl will remain on the premask. Temporarily tape the peeled section to the surface and cut away the release liner with a knife or scissor.



**WET METHOD** - Lightly spray the vehicle surface with the soap and water solution. Hold the end of the vinyl transfer several inches away from the surface and slowly lay the vinyl transfer down from the hinge outward and firmly squeegee over the premask with short overlapping strokes. The wet method will allow you to reposition the vinyl as needed and reduce the chance of air getting behind the vinyl. Now, remove the tape hinge and peel away the release liner on the other side of the vinyl transfer. Spray and apply this section the same way as the other.



**DRY METHOD** - Hold the vinyl transfer by the premask and do not touch the adhesive side of the vinyl to the surface until you are ready to squeegee. Hold the end of the vinyl transfer several inches away from the surface and starting at the center hinge, slowly make easy, overlapping vertical strokes with the squeegee. The slower you go, the less bubbles you will get. Now, remove the tape hinge and peel away the release liner on the other side of the vinyl transfer. Apply this section the same way as the other.



Wait up to 30 minutes to remove the premask if you used the wet method. Starting from a corner, slowly peel away the premask directly across itself at a 180 degree angle. Carefully re-squeegee any areas that seem to lift. After the premask is off, cover the squeegee with a sock or paper towel and go over the vinyl again, especially around the edges. Examine the vinyl for bubbles and prick them with a pin and squeegee the air out towards the puncture. A heat gun or hair dryer will assist in the removal of bubbles.

## VINYL GRAPHIC DEFINITIONS



- a Used to hold decal/lettering together.
- b The graphic/stripping/decals or lettering.
- c The sticky part of the graphic.
- d Paper backing that gets peeled off first when installing.