

Vinyl Decal Preparation and Installation

Your vinyl decal order is enclosed, and these are some brief details on installing your new decals. The complete process takes only a few minutes to complete and only requires a few basic tools. Go slowly through the process, ensure you have a clean working area, and end up with an installation that will last for several years. Your decals can be either permanent or non-permanent (the difference is the adhesive used to attach the vinyl to the surface). Decals can be installed on vehicles (windows or body), around the house on walls or windows, or devices like your notebook computer.



Preparing the Surface for A Decal

The surface where you will install the decal should be between 50°F (10°C) and 90°F (32°C) for the best adhesion. Application is not recommended in cooler temperatures as the decal adhesive will only set properly at warmer temperatures.

Thoroughly clean the area with a microfiber cloth and Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA) or soap and water. Avoid using an ammonia-based cleaner (Windex); they leave a thin residue that prevents the decal from adhering correctly.

Once cleaned, let the area dry completely.



Prepare Your Decal

If you received multiple decals on one sheet, you might want to cut them out and apply separately. This will make the decal easier to position and mistakes less likely.

Using a squeegee or credit card, press firmly on the decal to ensure that the decal sticks to the application transfer paper while removing any air bubbles that may have formed during shipping. Doing this will make the installation of the decal easier when removing the protective transfer paper layer.



Identify a Location for Your Decal

Determine a suitable placement for your decal. The exact placement will require a little measurement. Measure your decal, then measure the placement area to determine the center or desired alignment. Use a ruler, measuring tape, level, or other straight edge devices to ensure decal alignment and mark the measurements and angles with painter's tape.

Take a few steps back and look at your decal from a distance to ensure it's in the correct location.

If installing on a vehicle, make sure that the decal is not in the wiper blade path.



Removing the Backing Material

Gently separate the protective backing material from the decal. Try not to touch the decal's adhesive back as this could leave marks or dirt on the decal. Slowly remove the application tape, peeling it back. Watch as you peel off the backing. If any of the decal lifts off the backing material, press it back down with the knife.



Position the Decal Into Place

Apply the decal to the cleaned surface, starting from one side and working across to the other side while firmly setting it into place. Move slowly across the decal, allowing it to seal into place, keeping the decal pulled tight to prevent bubbles and wrinkles.



Removing Any Air Bubbles

Using a squeegee or credit card, apply firm pressure from the center to the decal's sides to firmly seat into place. Keep rubbing the decal into position to remove any wrinkles or air bubbles. Use overlapping strokes, starting at the center and working out toward each edge. Use a smooth, slow stroke and go over the entire decal several passes.



Removing the Application Transfer Tape

Leave the transfer tape on the decal while it dries. While you will be able to remove the transfer tape immediately, it's best to leave it to setup. Waiting 30 minutes makes removing the transfer tape more effortless and reduces the chances to pull any of the decal off. **Do not attempt to speed up the process using a heat source (hairdryer), as it may melt the decal.**

With the decal applied firmly and all wrinkles or bubbles removed, peel back the transfer tape from the top of the decal. Start from one end of the decal and slowly peel the tape off while making sure to hold the decal in place if it wants to come up with the tape. If any of the decal lifts off, press it back down with the knife. **Tip:** If the transfer tape does not seem to want to come off like it should, leave the tape on for another hour and come back, this will allow the decal to bond more firmly.

Admire Your New Decal

Your new decal installation is complete. Permanent decals for outdoor use will last for more than five years. Removable decals, typically used indoors or outdoors for less-permanent installations, will last about three years but are much easier to remove.