

# Application Guidelines

For the application of Sign Vinyl Decals



## Application Temperature

1. In cold conditions vinyl can become brittle and harder to cut, thus requiring unnecessary adjustment of the cutting depth. It can also make application difficult, as the initial adhesion of the vinyl will be reduced and the time taken for the adhesive to cure completely will be longer.
2. The recommended application temperature for applying vinyl using a 'dry application method' is at least 10°C and for a 'wet application method' is at least 17°C. Application in temperatures below 5°C is not recommended.
3. When applying vinyl graphics to a vehicle in cold weather always try to work indoors and raise the temperature of the vehicle by using a fan heater inside with the vehicle doors open. When this is not possible, for example an exterior application in winter conditions, it is very important to make absolutely sure that the adhesive has established a good bond to the substrate.
4. The service temperature range stated in the technical data sheets for each type of vinyl is the recommended temperature when in use.

## Aligning and Applying Sign Vinyl Decals

The following is a recommended method for accurately aligning and applying sign vinyl decals.

1. Once the decal has been cut and weeded, and application tape applied, it can be offered up to the substrate and carefully aligned in its final position.
2. Apply a 50mm tab of masking tape to fix each end in place horizontally. Apply a third strip of masking tape vertically across the centre from top to bottom; the tape should extend above and below the decal and fix it to the substrate.
3. Start with the right hand side of the decal and cut or tear the 50mm strip of masking tape, leaving half on the substrate. Turn the right hand side of the graphic back on itself. Peel away the silicone release liner, cutting it at the centre point where the vertical masking tape fixes the decal to the substrate, and discard. When peeling decals away from the silicone release liner always try to keep them as flat as possible and peel back the release liner towards you. This will reduce the chance of damage to fine details or serifs.
4. The first half of the decal can now be lightly applied by holding it taught and using the two parts of the 50mm masking tape tab to align it perfectly. Squeegee down firmly.
5. Remove the vertical strip of masking tape and repeat for the left hand side of the decal.
6. Finally remove the application tape by peeling away at 45° to the direction of the text and 180° to the surface.
7. Air bubbles can be removed by puncturing with the tip of a scalpel.
8. This method of application can be modified for large graphics (in excess of 2m). Apply vertical strips of masking tape at two, three or more intervals. Cut the graphic half way between these points to form smaller panels and proceed as described above.

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