

Air Bubbles During or After Application

Air bubbles can be reappear after application, where air is trapped beneath the film. Any dissipated air trapped under the film, particularly on non smooth surfaces, will reappear afterwards. To avoid this, ensure that during a wet application the adhesive is wet as well as the surface. When applying dry, apply firm pressure in over lapping strokes outward from the centre of the film.

Air bubbles can also be created due to out gassing from painted surfaces or some plastics. To be sure, test a small piece for 24 hours to see if the surfaces out gasses.

Vinyl Lifting or Peeling After Application

The main cause of vinyl failure is due to poor initial adhesion. To ensure correction initial adhesion, make sure the surfaces has been correctly cleaned, using detergent then isopropanol. In cold or damp conditions initial adhesion can be a problem, and the result is that graphics, particularly fine serifs, can lift off vehicles or glass more easily. To avoid this, try to apply dry in cold conditions, or apply mild heat to the vinyl after application, to activate the adhesive.

Calendered films can lift from recesses if they have been stressed during application. Calendered films should be laid unstressed into recesses.

Cutting and Weeding Problems

Excessive blade cutting depth or pressure can make lifting the graphic from the liner harder, or cause the liner to delaminate. It can also bevel the edge of the cut vinyl, which can make it difficult to lift with the application tape, or appear that the tape is too low tack.

Application Tape Problems

Most failures of application tape are due to incorrect storage. Paper application tape is a natural product and prone to absorbing moisture, and degradation from uv light. This will make the tape hard to remove from the roll. To avoid this, store out of direct sunlight, and in a non damp conditions.

If it is experienced that the tape isn't lifting the vinyl this can be due to excessive blade cutting depth. This can bevel the edge of the cut vinyl, which makes it appear that the tape is too low tack. Metamark standard tack tapes are suitable for most applications

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