

VINYL GRAPHICS - Storage & Installation Procedures

STORAGE: Graphics should be stored in a clean, dry, cool room. Never subject the graphics to moisture, excessive humidity, direct sunlight or temperatures above 85 degrees. For storage longer than a few weeks, the graphics should be un-rolled and stored flat.

TOOLS: Squeegee • Tape Measure, Ruler, or Level • Scissors • Masking tape (1" or wider works best) • Pen or Pencil • Cleaning Rags or Paper Towels • Surface Cleaner (Alcohol, Windex, or Soap & Water)

CLEANING: The surface must be clean and free from wax, tar, bug goo, or other residue for the vinyl to stick properly. It's best to clean with one rag and dry with a second. The surface you are applying the decal to should be between 45° to 85° Fahrenheit. If it is too cold the adhesive will not work properly. If it is too hot the vinyl is aggressive and difficult to apply. In 90° plus weather find a shady area for the install.

INSTALLATION PROCEDURES: (Read the entire section before performing the installation)

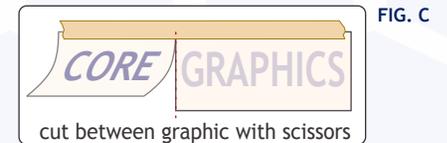
1. Visually tape the graphic/s into position and stand back and determine whether they are in the correct position. Adjust the graphic until it looks good. Using a level, or measuring device, ensure that the graphic is level and in the proper position (FIG A).



2a. Once the graphic is in position, apply masking tape along the top edge of the graphic (FIG B). With this method you can remove the backing gradually as you apply the graphic to prevent it from sticking before you squeegee. On large graphics you can cut between individual letters or sections. Each section becomes a smaller piece that is easier to install (FIG C). Remove a section of backing and install section by section.



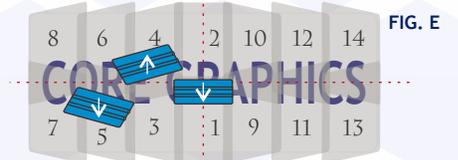
2b. Long skinny graphics work better with a center hinge. Apply masking tape through the middle of the graphic (FIG D). Using this technique, mark both ends of the graphic and remove the backing from one half of the graphic, cutting the backing at the tape hinge. Line up the marks on the graphic with the one on the substrate and squeegee from the center out. Remove the tape hinge and repeat the process for the other half.



3. Typically your first squeegee stroke begins at the center of the graphic or at the hinge and moves parallel with the tape hinge. All of the subsequent strokes work off the initial center stroke (FIG E). Each stroke must overlap the previous one to avoid trapping air bubbles behind the vinyl. Angle the squeegee away from the center line as you squeegee. Never angle the squeegee towards the center line, you will only produce bubbles and wrinkles. Always work from the center out.



4. If you need to reposition the graphic, give the material a sharp jerk with the snap of your wrist. Never use a slow pulling motion, this will only encourage the vinyl to stick and you will end up stretching it.



5. To remove the application tape, pull the tape against itself at a 180° angle (FIG F). Do this at a slow and steady pace while making sure the graphic is adhered securely. If the graphic does not stick. Carefully place the graphic back down and re-squeegee it with more pressure. After you remove the application tape you should rub all of the edges of the graphic with your thumb or finger to make sure the adhesive is stuck down. If there are any air bubbles, you can poke them with a pin or needle and push the air out. Small bubbles the size of this "o" will disappear in a week.

