

# Vinyl Imagination

## Custom Decals & Graphics

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

### Supplies You Will Need



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 Pencil



Application Squeegee



Scissors, Exacto Knife, and a Needle



Heat Gun or Hair Dryer (optional)

### Environment Recommendations

The surface temperature should range from 55°F to 90°F to achieve the best installation results. If the surface is hot to the touch, it's probably over 90°F. The adhesive becomes brittle when it gets too cold, and gummy when it gets too hot. Application of vinyl graphics outside the suggested temperature range of 55°F to 90°F decrease the ability of the adhesive to perform. Outdoor application is discouraged, but can be achieved when winds are less than 7 mph. Blown dirt, dust or other contaminants can interfere with the bonding of the graphic adhesive to the surface during installation.

### Wet or Dry Installation?

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 way to remove the graphics without damaging them. **The Wet Method is STRONGLY suggested for non-professionals.**

### EASY INSTALL STEP 1



Wash the surface thoroughly with the solution of dish soap and warm water, then rinse with clean 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 remaining contaminants, and promote the adhesion process. Dry the surface a final time with a fresh lint-free cloth or paper towel.

### EASY INSTALL STEP 2



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

### EASY INSTALL STEP 3



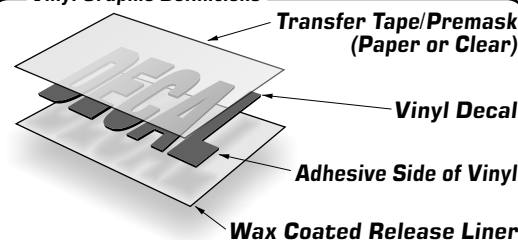
Apply strips of masking tape vertically to the center of the vinyl transfer, over the premask. This creates a hinge allowing the graphic to be applied one section at a time.

### EASY INSTALL STEP 4



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 the release line with a knife or scissors.

### Vinyl Graphic Definitions



#### Transfer Tape/Premask:

Sometimes referred to as application tape. Used to hold the vinyl graphics/lettering together, and in position during installation and application.

#### Vinyl Decal:

The actual vinyl graphic/striping/decal or lettering that is being installed.

#### Adhesive Side of Vinyl:

The sticky/adhesive side of the vinyl graphic that adheres to the surface.

#### Wax Coated Release Liner:

The thick paper backing that is removed/peeled off first when installing



**WET INSTALL 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. Then slowly, and firmly squeegee over the premask with short overlapping strokes. The wet method will allow you to reposition the vinyl as needed prior to squeegeeing, and reduces 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 using the same method as the first section.

### EASY INSTALL STEP 5



**DRY INSTALL METHOD:** Hold the vinyl transfer by the premask 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 fewer 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 using the same method as the first section.

### EASY INSTALL STEP 6



Wait up to 60 minutes to remove the premask if you used the wet method, time allowed will depend on ambient temperature. 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 removed, cover the squeegee with a soft cloth, or paper towel and go over the vinyl again, especially around the edges. Examine the vinyl for bubbles, if bubbles are apparent prick them with a sharp pin, or needle (do not use a scalpel, or razorblade) then squeegee the air out towards the puncture. A heat gun set to low, or hair dryer will assist in the removal of bubbles.