

# A GUIDE FOR INSTALLING SELF-ADHESIVE VINYL

## Clean the application surface.

Make sure the surface is clean and dirt free. First, clean the surface with a cloth and soapy water to remove any grime. The next step is to clean the surface with a de-greaser. The best cleaner to use for degreasing is Methylated spirits. Not to be confused with white spirits, methylated spirits which is usually a purple-coloured liquid and is one of the best cleaning agents. Wipe down the surface thoroughly using either a spray bottle to spray the surface with methylated spirit or wetting a dry cloth in the cleaner and wiping. The great thing about methylated spirit is that it evaporates quickly, leaving the surface dry and clean within a few seconds after wiping. You can repeat the process of wiping down the surface with the methylated spirits until you are happy that the surface is clean and free from dirt, dust or grease.

# WET APPLICATION METHOD

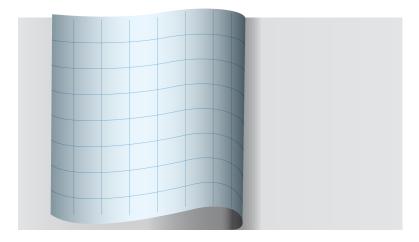
You should use the wet application method when installing large graphics. The wet application method is also advised to be the preferred method when installing graphics to glass.

- 1 Use a spray bottle; an old kitchen spray bottle will be fine or similar. Add one small drop of fairy liquid to the bottle and fill it with water.
- 2 Spray the application suface evenly with the soapy water solution. (application surface is the intended surface you are applying the vinyl.

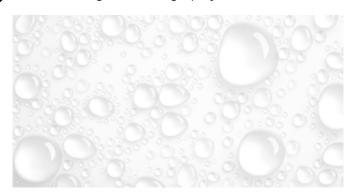




2 Laying the graphic face down onto a clean surface, slowly peel the backing paper away. (backing paper should be face up). Make sure that there is no dust or contaminants on your working surface, as the vinyl can attract dust. Be careful to slowly peel the backing away at a low angle to the film. Keeping the backing paper at a low angle and close to the vinyl when removing it will make it less likely to create static and stop dust particles from sticking to your vinyl.



4 After removing the backing, spray the entire adhesive area with the soapy solution.





- On larger graphics, you may need an assistant. Carefully pick up the graphic on the corners, making sure not to let any dust attach to the adhesive surface. Turn the graphic over so the adhesive side down and place your vinyl in your desired position your decal will applied.
- 6 Spray the face of the vinyl with the soapy solution. Spraying the surface will act as a lubricant so your applicator will glide over the surface.
- It's now time to squeeze out the water. You can use a credit card wrapped in a clean cloth or a vinyl applicator to apply the vinyl.

Using a little pressure and straight linear strokes and working from the centre now, push out the water. Keep working from the centre-left to the right, pushing out the water in linear strokes. Work from the centre first, then move up each time with each stroke until all the water has been pushed out. Then work from the centre down and repeat the process. Once the right-hand side is applied, do the same on the left-hand side of the graphic until all the water has been pushed out from under the vinyl. **SEE FIGURE 1** 

Your graphic has now been installed. Please, allow depending on the temperate, around 2 days for the water to fully evaporate underneath the film. Once 48 hours have elapsed, your vinyl adhesive will be at full bonding strength. You can pop any small water bubbles using the sharp point of a scalpel knife and push out any remaining water. **SEE FIGURE 2** 

















## **HINGE METHOD**

## Ideal for smaller decals, dry application

Installing adhesive vinyl graphics is simple if you follow these step-by-step instructions. In this example, we apply graphics without water using the hinge method. The same principle used in this example applies to all hinge applications regardless of the surface or size of the graphic. The hinge method is more suited for smaller graphics. Larger graphics can be installed using the dry application hinge method but are suited for persons more experienced in handling large vinyl-type installs.

- 1 Clean the application area as you would using the wet application method, as discussed earlier.
- Position the graphic onto the application surface. Put a strip of tape at each end of the graphic to hold it in position, as in the illustration below.

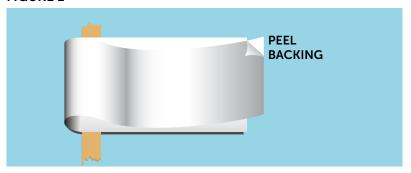


3 Apply a piece of masking tape across the middle of the vinyl graphic, thus forming a hinge.



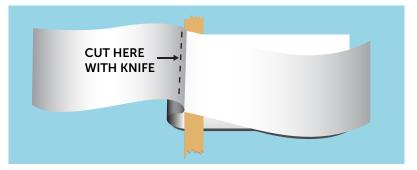
- Remove 1 piece of tape one on of the sides, leaving just the tape in the middle and on one side. You are now ready to apply the graphic.
- 5 Lift one side and bring it across the other as below **SEE FIGURE 1**., then peel the backing away, moving towards the hinge **SEE FIGURE 2**. Remove the excess backing cutting off using a craft / Stanley knife

#### FIGURE 1



### FIGURE 2





6 Holding the end of the graphic away from the application area, apply the vinyl using the squeegee (or credit card), moving from side to side along the graphic as shown by arrows.



- **7** Remove the hinged tape in the middle and repeat Step 6 for the other side.
- Your graphic is now applied. Now you can remove any backing tape if your decals is supplied with tape. The backing tape will only be supplied on your graphic if it is kiss-cut in sections like text etc. The tape keeps all your cut pieces together and in the correct positions. If no application tape is on your decal, your installation is complete.

Removal of application tape after installation

Keep the tape low to the graphic as you pull the backing tape away. Please note: If you pull the tape away to high you can pull away the graphic with the backing paper.



Step 9, your graphic is now complete. If you have any air bubbles, please use a craft knife or pin to carefully pop the bubbles and press the air out with your finger.