

Ready-to-Apply Graphics

RTA graphics are made in our shop ready for you, the customer, to install on windows, boats, vehicles, equipment. Just about anything.

We use computer driven plotters to cut high performance vinyl in a wide variety of colors and multi color printed graphics that can include any number of colors, even photos. Just about anything.

RTA graphics are not difficult to install if you follow these simple instructions.

What you Get

When you get your vinyl graphics from us, most of the time they will be between two other layers of material. The bottom, opaque layer is the backing sheet. This is what the vinyl is stuck to when we cut it. The top, milky layer is transfer tape. This keeps the parts of the graphic in position while you get them off the backing sheet and onto whatever it is you are decorating.

Helpful Stuff

- Grease Pencil
- Blue masking tape
- X-acto knife and straight edge or scissors.
- Cleaning materials
- Soapy Solution (for Wet Apply) in a spray bottle
- Hard plastic squeegee

Getting Set Up

Install letters in warm weather. If the temperature is below 55 degrees, use a hair dryer or some kind of heater to warm the surface where the graphics will be installed.

Read all the instructions before you start.

Make sure the surface is clean. Glass cleaner can be helpful. Wipe it well and make sure it is dry. If it is glass, you can use a razor blade to scrape any old adhesive.

For wet installs, make a soapy solution using 1/4 tsp. of Liquid Dish Soap and 1/4 tsp. of alcohol in one quart of water.



Ready-to-Apply Graphics

Positioning (*Wet Apply*)

Using a straight edge, draw a light pencil line all the way across the graphic. This is to help you get the vinyl down in the right place.

Draw a corresponding line on the surface. Using a grease pencil for this is good because it will wash right off. Line up the two lines to make sure the graphic will be right where you want it. Adjust as needed.

Sticking the Vinyl Down (*Wet Apply*)

Turn the graphic over and remove the backing sheet.

Spray down the back of the graphic with Soapy Solution. This temporarily kills the adhesive on the vinyl. It will give you time to line up your lines and makes bubbles less likely.

Line up your line on the graphic with the line on the surface and squeegee from the center out, making sure to work out any air bubbles. You should press pretty hard.

Leave the transfer tape stuck to the graphics and wait 30 minutes (2 hours in cooler conditions) so any soapy solution left under the vinyl has time to evaporate.

When cured, wet down the transfer tape. This weakens the transfer tape adhesive and makes it easier to remove.

Carefully peel away the transfer tape. Pull the tape straight back against the surface at a 180 degree angle. Do NOT pull straight up. Make sure any small elements remain stuck to the surface and do not come up with the tape. If the graphic comes away with the tape, you need to wait longer.

If you still have any air bubbles, you can use a pin to release the air and use your thumb to squish them.

Positioning (*Dry Apply*)

Decide where you want the graphic and tape the graphic in place using two short pieces of blue tape on the upper corners. Make sure that it is level. A light pencil line or grease pencil line on the transfer tape can help with this.

Once it is level, make a hinge by running tape all the way across the top of the graphic. Burnish this tape down well.

Lift the graphic up and remove the backing sheet.

Sticking the Vinyl Down (*Dry Apply*)

Lay the graphic down against the surface, hold the squeegee at an angle like a snow plow and squeegee from the center out-- center to left, center to right and so forth on down.

Once the whole graphic is down, burnish it well one more time.

Carefully peel away the transfer tape. Pull the tape straight back against the surface at 180 degrees. Do NOT pull straight up. Make sure any small elements remain stuck to the surface and do not come up with the tape.

