

FITTING WINDOW GRAPHICS

Dry Application - suitable for perforated films

CLEAN THE GLASS! It is vital that the glass is absolutely clean before fitting a graphic. The glass must be cleaned and de greased. Use detergent or any solvent based cleaner that does **not** contain silicone or oil additives. Use a plain, non-coloured, paper towel or lint free cloth for the final polish.

Turn the graphic over and place on a flat surface. From the top edge, peel back about 25mm - 30mm of the backing paper or film and crease it, then return the backing film to the original position. This preparation will aid initial adhesion later. Avoid touching the adhesive with your fingers.

Offer the graphic up to the fitting position and hinge the top edge with 50mm masking tape – half on the glass and half on the graphic. Check the alignment and when you are satisfied that all is correct, lift the graphic and peel away about 25mm to 30mm of the release paper or film from the back. Let the graphic fall into position without the adhesive taking a strong hold and recheck positioning. The folded backing will help keep the adhesive off the glass. Tack the top edge, ensuring that it goes down flat and true. Next, peel away about 100mm of backing film. Start at the top centre and wipe downwards and outwards using a flat squeegee blade. Peel away another 100mm of backing film and continue with overlapping strokes downwards and outwards until finished.

Be aware that perforated film is very flimsy and easy to crease, so treat it gently. It is almost impossible to get trapped air bubbles with perforated film! Gently remove the masking tape. Pull it across the film at an acute angle not at 90 degrees.

Wet Application - suitable for solid films

This involves spraying a film of fine water droplets from a plant sprayer on the glass after the graphic is positioned but before applying the adhesive. The water droplets hold the adhesive off the glass until pressure is applied. This method ensures good adhesion and minimises air bubbles being trapped under the film. Any bubbles can be pricked using a scalpel or needle and then wiped down.

Correct temperature range

Ambient temperature range, for fitting, is recommend to be 15C to 25C. Most adhesives work better and form a stronger bond when warm. If working in cold conditions below 10C, the gentle use of a hot air gun on the film, as it is applied, is recommended. If the film or glass is particularly cold, the adhesive will be slow to tack and the film will be more brittle and require more careful handling.

Avoid application in direct summer sunlight as the film can become very soft and difficult to handle and the adhesive very tacky with a tendency to “grab” on contact. All adhesives will “cure” over a period of 6 to 24 hours until full adhesion has been obtained. Avoid washing or otherwise disturbing the graphic for a 24 to 48 hour period if possible.

Remember, the adhesive for any film graphic will only stick properly if the surface is clean and the film is applied correctly.

For more information or advice on applying these products call Tim Sale at Redcliffe Imaging on 0117 952 6068. Tell us about your requirements and we can suggest the most appropriate solution for your display needs.

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