



How to apply the films

Grafiprint media and their laminates

Introductory remarks.

A brief preceding study will save you a lot of time and will guarantee a better end result. Always check the following points :

- Determine which Grafiprint media you have to use, depending on the requirements of the job. Please use the table below.
- What kind of surface do you want the apply the vinyl onto ?
- Is the surface smooth or structured ?
- Is it exposed to a lot of sunlight ?
- Is the material suited for vinyl application ?
- How big is the surface ?
- Are there any problem zones ?

Make sure all necessary equipment and materials are ready at hand before starting the job.

Pay attention to your own safety and health. Take into account all safety prescriptions of the suppliers when using electric equipment and products that are necessary to complete the job successfully.

- For sign making and/or wrapping vehicles, we refer to the download section "manuals" on our website www.grafityp.com

The Preparation.

Tip 1: Always use Grafityp materials of the same kind. Grafiprint print films should be combined with Grafiprint laminates only as indicated in the table below.

Tip 2: Check whether certain plastic materials are suited for vinyl application. The adhesion will, of course, be a lot lower on a structured surface, which is not recommendable.

Always allow the printed vinyl to ventilate for a sufficient period of time, before you laminate it.

If you don't do so, it often leads to a too strong initial tack or even adhesive staying behind on the surface when you try to reposition the vinyl.

Cleaning.

- Clean the surface thoroughly with the appropriate products.
- Always make sure that lime scales, grease stains, etc... are gone.
- Clean the edges of sown panels by means of compressed air. They often contain dust grains, which are attracted by the vinyl during the application process.
- Disassemble door handles, hinges, etc... from doors, coffins, etc...
- When everything is perfectly clean, wipe the complete surface once again with isopropanol.

Laminating.

There are various ways to laminate the print media :

- Cold lamination: can be used for most applications.
- Warm lamination: is always better and is advised for wrapping. Warm lamination is done by heating your laminated print at the bottom side (= by heating the backing paper instead of the laminate).

Follow the instructions in the manual and pay attention to the safety instructions that come with your laminator.

Allow your print to dry for at least 24 to 48 hours (or even longer, depending on the amount of ink) before laminating it, and wait another 24 hours before applying the film.

The Application.

Tip 3: Make sure the workshop is dust-free, that the necessary ambient temperature has been reached, and that the job can not be complicated by direct sunlight or by a heat source. Also make sure the floor is completely clean, as the vinyl gets statically loaded during the application process, thus attracting dust very easily.

The vinyl can be applied dry or wet. We recommend dry application.

Run a couple of tests first. They can save you a lot of work. Apply a test strip on the surface and check the result.

- If the test strip sticks too strong on the surface, or if you see lots of air bubbles underneath the film, this means that the surface has not been pre-treated sufficiently. In that case, repeat the isopropanol treatment.
- If the test strip does not stick sufficiently, this means that probably a very thin layer of (silicone) protection or grease has stayed behind on the surface. In that case, also repeat the pre-treatment.

The tools:

- Felt squeegee
- Cutting knife
- Heat gun
- Extension cord
- Sufficient light
- Roll of tape
- Electric current
- Meter, felt-tip, pencil ...

The preparation:

- Position the vinyl (with its backing paper) on the surface.
- Always avoid cutting in the surface
- Apply a couple of reference points where vinyl and surface meet, so you can easily place the vinyl in its exact position again.

The application of the vinyl:

- Remove the backing paper from the vinyl.
- Position the vinyl without folds against the reference points you applied earlier.
- Rub the vinyl smoothly by means of the felt squeegee. Make sure that the air between the object and the vinyl can always escape.

Tip 4: Never lay a felt squeegee on the floor. Sand will creep into the squeegee, and you will make scratches on the vinyl the next time you use it.

The Finishing.

Small air bubbles will disappear automatically after a certain period of time. Larger air bubbles on even surfaces need to be punctured to allow the air to escape.

After the job has been completed.

Don't move your work to a cold or damp area immediately after the job has been completed. Give the adhesive some time to stick to the new surface. The optimal adhesive strength will be reached after about three days.

Cleaning and Maintenance.

- We advise you not to clean the vinyl with a high-pressure cleaner.
- Vinyl is a soft material. Therefore the cleaning and maintenance shall only be executed with non-scouring cleaning agents, without strong solvents or corrosive ingredients. If you want to give the vehicle some additional gloss after a certain period of time, you can "polish" it. Please only use the products that are specifically meant for this application. The old application "wax on – wax off" with a polishing paste is not applicable in this case.

Removal of the vinyl.

Grafiprint materials have been developed especially not to leave behind any glue residues after removing them. If you wish to remove the vinyl, we advise you to heat it with a heat gun. Pull off the vinyl under an angle of +90°. If any glue stays behind on the surface, you can remove it with isopropanol.

Tip 5: If any glue residues stay behind, this is often because the vinyl is too warm and the adhesive is too cold. Just wait for a moment until the heat has reached the area between the adhesive layer and the surface, and things will become much easier. You will find the right balance between heating and removing the vinyl after some practice.