

Sign making on GLASS with the



ETCHED GLASS Sandblast-effect Series.

Introductory remarks.

The Etched Glass Sandblast-effect Series can be used for so many other applications than just "covering a window".

You can combine these materials with each other without any problem. A retro design can be executed just as easily as an ultramodern design.

Dozens of possible combinations can distinguish your design from any other.

Do you want more discretion in your office, bath room or kitchen ? No direct sunlight in the room ? Are you bothered with neighbours peeping in through the windows ?

Just use the Etched Glass Sandblast-effect Series (TR100, TR101, TR111, TR112, TR113, TR114, TR120, TR121, TR122).

A combination of these films will allow you to create surprising effects.

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

- Are the windows perfectly clean ? All paint spots and grains of sand must be removed before applying the vinyl.
- Are there any traces of silicones left at the edges ?
- Where is the sun at the moment when you are applying the vinyl ? Direct sunlight will make the window too warm to apply the vinyl without any problem.
- Apply the film at the inside or at the outside ? A shop window against which bikes will be parked – it will get scratched...

The Preparation.

Cleaning.

- Wash the window thoroughly.
- Go over the window with your hand to feel whether any small grains have stayed behind on it. You can easily remove them with a squeegee or a scraper.
- Make sure that the windowsills, the doorsteps and the floor under the window are cleaned as well and are free of dust.
- Remove handles and latches. This will take some extra preparation time, but the end result will look nicer and the job will be done a lot quicker.
- Degrease with isopropanol.

The application.

Tip 1: Do you have to apply the film on 100 identical windows in a hotel ? Leave a space of about one centimetre between the vinyl and the window frame. In this way you will avoid applying the vinyl on the window's silicone stripe, as this would only cause problems in the future.

Tip 2: Make sure no dust is produced in the direct neighbourhood. The smallest grain of dust will look much bigger when it gets in between the TR film and the window.

Tip 3: Never use any other film than the etched glass series, a transparent film or WG15R to cover your windows completely. Other films will cause tension when they are exposed to direct sunlight, which could lead to cracks in the window.

The vinyls are always applied dry when a mounting film is used.

Larger pieces (without mounting film) are preferably applied wet (with soapy water).

The tools:

- Squeegee
- Cutting knife
- Sufficient light
- Roll of tape
- Meter, felt-tip, pencil, ...

The preparation:

- Place the vinyl (with its backing paper) on the window.
- Always avoid cutting in the glass. This can cause scratches. If you really have to cut, always use stainless steel knives.
- Apply some reference points where vinyl and window meet, so you can easily place the vinyl at 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 squeegee. Make sure that the air between the window and the vinyl can always escape.

Tip 4: It is not advisable to remove the mounting film immediately after the wet application. If the vinyl needs to be applied wet, leave it to dry for at least 24 hours before removing the mounting film.

Tip 5: In case of wet application, we advise you not to moisten the window only. It is easier if you moisten the backside of the vinyl as well.

Tip 6: The sprayer that you normally use for spraying the weeds in your garden will be perfect if you need to moisten a larger surface.

Tip 7: Never lay a squeegee on the floor. Sand will creep into the squeegee, and you will make scratches on the vinyl the next time you use it.

Tip 8: Watch out for fingerprints ! They will be visible at both sides of the window and will not easily disappear.

The finishing.

Small air bubbles will disappear automatically after a certain period of time. Normally there should not be any larger air bubbles underneath the vinyl – this would mean that you did not use enough fluid for the wet application.

Cut the vinyl where two pieces of glass are joining each other. In this way you avoid dirty stripes and water getting under the vinyl when cleaning the windows.

Cleaning and Maintenance.

Vinyl is a soft material. Therefore the maintenance shall only be executed with non-scouring cleaning agents, without strong solvents or corrosive ingredients.

We advise you not to clean with a high-pressure cleaner.

Removal of the vinyl.

Our 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. Avoid heating the vinyl for too long at the same location, as this could cause the glass to crack.

Pull off the vinyl under an angle of 90°.

If any glue stays behind on the surface, you can remove it with isopropanol.

Tip 9: 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 glass, and things will become much easier. You will find the right balance between heating and removing the vinyl after some practice.

This GrafiManual is not to be considered as a complete product manual. It is only meant as a tool, to give you an idea of the possibilities and the application of the above-mentioned products. More detailed information about these products can be found in the product data sheets and on www.grafityp.com.