

TRANSFERRING VINYL: WET VS. DRY

Most of the time vinyl graphics are applied to the sign surface dry. However, using the wet method technique (most commonly done with paper application tapes), allows the graphics to slide on the application surface for easier placement and registration. Standard weight paper application tapes can withstand being wet only for a short period of time. If the tape is "over-soaked" or remains wet too long, it will tear, fall apart, or leave adhesive residue on the vinyl.

WET TECHNIQUE WITH PAPER APPLICATION TAPES

Application Steps (Follow Directions of Application Fluid Manufacturer)

1. Spray a fine mist of application fluid onto the cleaned application surface *OR* to the adhesive side of the taped vinyl lettering.
2. "Float" lettering into place on the application surface.
3. Apply firm squeegee pressure from the centre outwards to remove bubbles and wrinkles from under the vinyl.
4. **Wait one to two minutes** to allow the vinyl to adhere.
5. Firmly squeegee a second time, to permanently fix the vinyl.
6. Carefully remove the tape by folding it back over itself at an 180° angle from top corner. *If tape does not remove easily from the vinyl, spray a light mist of wet solution to back side of tape and wait a few seconds. (This should help release the tape from the vinyl without leaving adhesive residue.)*
6. It may be necessary to squeegee the vinyl lettering one last time after removal of the application tape. Hold a piece of used liner backing over the vinyl and apply firm squeegee pressure.
7. Pop any bubbles left in the vinyl with a pin.

LARGE FORMAT VINYL PRINTS

If you damage a large format digital print during transportation, handling or installation, you lose big time. That loss not only includes the cost of materials and machine time, but potentially the good will with your customer. Why take that risk? DigiMask™ paper and film protection products provide you with print protection insurance at a minimal investment.

DigiMask™ Features

Specially formulated *Light* tack adhesiveness removes easily and in one piece after installation without residue. This easy-removal characteristic reduces the risk of pulling overlaminates away from prints or pulling the installed graphic from the application substrate. Extra thick (130mu) DigiMask™ Plus makes handling of large format graphics a lot easier. DigiMask™ Clear surface film allows inspection of prints and precise inspection of prints and precise registration of graphic panels during installation. DigiMask™ and DigiMask™ Plus do feature Conform technology to reduce the risk of tunneling and edge lifting

All DigiMask™ products are available in 1m22; 1m37 and 1m52

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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Application Tape Guide Tips & Tricks



1st Choice for Quality and Value

YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO USE THE WRONG TAPE

R Tape Corporation has been providing high quality pressure sensitive tapes and films to the Graphic Arts Industry since 1983, and continues to customize and design products to meet the ever-changing demands of the market. R Tape application tapes, pre-masks, overlaminating films and VinylIEFx continue to provide proven performance in all areas of sign making, screen printing, wide format digital and roll label printing applications.

STORAGE CONDITIONS & SHELF LIFE

All pressure sensitive tapes and films should be stored in their original shipping cartons on end. Application tape should be stored at room temperature at approximately 50% relative humidity. Maximum shelf life of application tapes is one year when stored properly.

APPLICATION TAPE ADHESIVES

Application tapes must have the correct adhesive strength or "tack" to lift the cut vinyl lettering from the liner backing, yet be able to remove easily from the vinyl lettering once it is transferred to the application surface.

Adhesive systems vary in application tapes. Some are rubber-based and others, acrylic. R Tape application tapes are built with natural rubber-based adhesives, notably 40-Series, 47-series and all RLA*. Series of product Natural rubber-based adhesives are very stable. They have very little, if no build in adhesion when applied to vinyl for extended periods of time. They are also very smooth and consistent, therefore, will not transfer a "texture" to the vinyl lettering.

Acrylic-based application tapes have a tendency to increase their adhesion to vinyl. This may be desirable in some applications, but too much build can occur over time making it difficult to remove the tape from the vinyl lettering after transfer.

R TAPE PRODUCT REFERENCE GUIDE

Tack	Face Type	R Tape Product ref.
Low	Standard Paper	4000-RLA*
Low	Premium Paper	4700 Aplltape™
Low	Clear Film	PM 40
Medium	Clear Structured Film	AT70 Clear Choice®
Medium	Standard Paper	4050 Aplltape™
Medium	Standard Paper	4050-RLA*
Medium	Premium Paper	4750 Aplltape™
Medium	Premium Paper	4750-RLA*
Med/High	Clear Film	*AT42-RLA*
Med/High	Premium Paper	4760-RLA*
High	Clear Film	*AT60 Clear Choice®
High	Standard Paper	*4075 Aplltape™
High	Standard Paper	*4075-RLA*
High	Premium Paper	4775 Aplltape™
High	Premium Paper	4775-RLA*
Extra High	Standard Paper	4076-RLA*
Ultra High	Premium	4885 Aplltape™

* R Tape 4075 Aplltape™, 4075-RLA*, AT60 Clear Choice® and AT70 Clear Choice® application tapes are the most widely used R Tape products for sign making.

CHOOSING APPLICATION TAPE

Cut Size of Vinyl Lettering vs. Tack Level

Generally speaking, high tack application tapes are required to lift smaller vinyl lettering from the liner backing. Larger vinyl lettering may need a medium to low tack application tape for easier removal after transfer.

Lettering Size	Tape Tack Level
50mm or less	High
100mm or larger	Medium
250mm or larger	Low

However, R Tape 4075 and 4075-RLA* High Tack are "all purpose" application tapes, which can be used on any sized lettering for most sign making applications.

Sign Surfaces

Application surfaces, such as poster board, glass or fabric present unique requirements. A high tack application tape may be difficult to remove, or can damage certain surfaces, such as poster board, painted walls or ink from non-laminated printed media. Use a lower tack application tape or one which is specifically designed for such surfaces.

Textured, uneven surfaces, such as rivets on tractor trailers sometimes cause standard weight paper application tapes to tear. If this is a problem, try using a premium (heavy weight) paper tape such as R Tape 4760-RLA* medium/high tack or 4750/4750-RLA* medium tack. Rivet brushes also aid in working the vinyl over rivets.

Surface/Application Type	Suggested R Tape Prod. Ref.
Banners (Vinyl)	Medium to High Tack - 4050* or 4075*
Boat and Marine Graphics	High Tack (Paper Tape for Wet Method) - 4075*
Glass	Low to Medium Tack (Paper Tape for Wet Method) - 4000-RLA*, 4050*, AT42-RLA*
Fleet, RV & Trailer Graphics	Low to Med./High (Premium-weight Paper Tape) - 4700, 4750, 4760
Stencil Films, Sandblast Films, Latex-Painted Walls	Low Tack Tape - 4000-RLA*
Vehicle Graphics	Medium to High - 4075* / AT42-RLA*

R Tape Conform Series with RLA* versions can also be used. **High tack performance to vinyl only, not poster board surface.

Type of Vinyl/Transfer Medium

Application tape performance sometimes varies between different brands of vinyl, or even different colours of the same vinyl brand. Different release liners have different release values which also impacts on the "lifting" characteristics demanded of the tape.

R TAPE CROSS REFERENCE GUIDE

Occasionally, the application tape you normally use will not lift cut lettering as easily when working with certain vinyl or foil products. If so, the following suggestions may be useful, and are based on general testing performed by R Tape Corporation. Uncontrollable outside influences may alter your results, therefore please test your specific application. Please also refer to the TROUBLESHOOTING section for additional tips.

For unique or troublesome materials or applications not included, contact R Tape Corporation.

Vinyl Description	Routine	Lifting Trouble
defraction/holographic	4050, 4050-RLA* 4075, 4075-RLA*	4076-RLA*, 4885
Frosted	4050, 4050-RLA* 4075, 4075-RLA*	4076-RLA*, 4885
Gold Leaf	AT60, AT42-RLA* 4075, 4075-RLA*	4076-RLA*, 4885
Intermediate Vinyl	4050, 4050-RLA* 4075, 4075-RLA*, AT42-RLA*	4076-RLA*
Metallic	AT60, 4050, 4050-RLA* 4076, 4075-RLA*, AT42-RLA* (immediate transfer)	4076-RLA*
Premium Vinyl	4050, 4050-RLA* 4075, 4075-RLA* AT42-RLA*	4076, 4076-RLA*
Reflective	4075, 4075-RLA* AT42-RLA*	4076, 4076-RLA*
Sandblast Rubber / Stencil film	4000-RLA*	4885

See supra: R Tape Product Reference Guide for descriptions; Cut Size of Vinyl Lettering, and suggested tack level.

USING APPLICATION TAPE TO TRANSFER GRAPHICS

Clean the Application Surface

Clean application surface thoroughly with vinegar, denatured alcohol or a recommended commercially-prepared wet application solution. Clean glass twice to remove window cleaner buildup.

Note: Pressure sensitive vinyl may not stick to car windows treated with water-repellent products, [such as Rain-X brand], despite the use of cleaning agents. It could take up to six months before such window treatments dissipate enough for vinyl to adhere properly.

Preferred Method to Remove Vinyl Lettering from Liner

1. Flip graphic over so taped side is facing down.
2. Starting, at the top corner, peel the liner backing at a 180° angle.