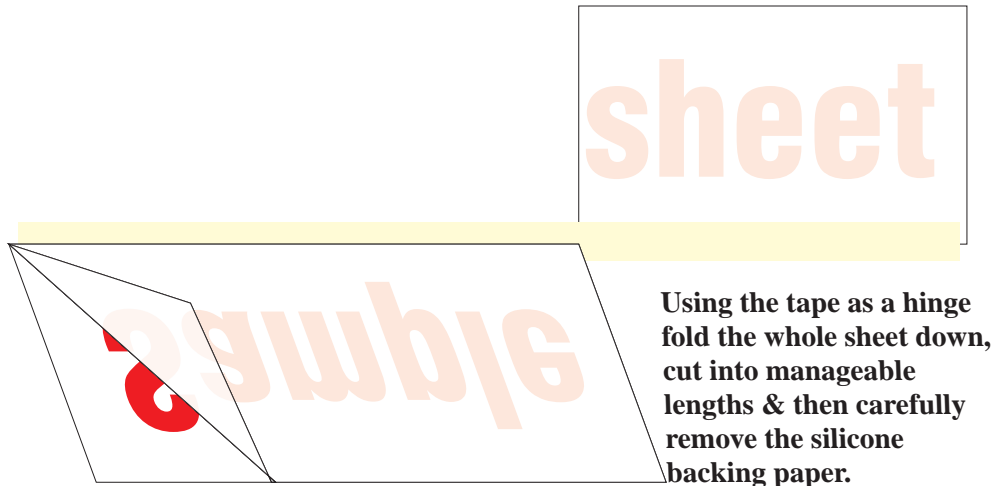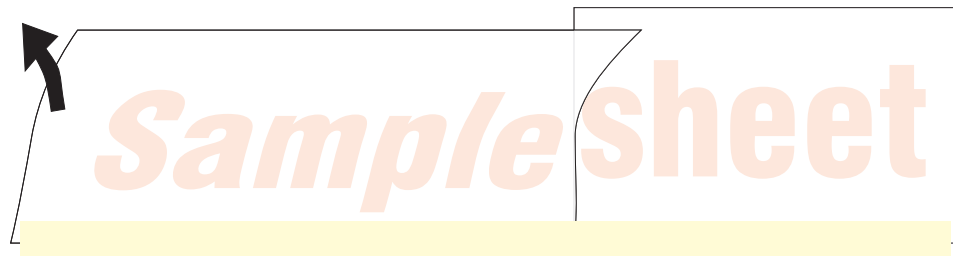# Help in applying vinyl

1)

Sample sheet

Position sheet & fix at bottom using masking tape

2)

sheet

sample

Using the tape as a hinge fold the whole sheet down, cut into manageable lengths & then carefully remove the silicone backing paper.

3)

Sample sheet

Now fold up the exposed section, & use a squeegee to press the vinyl against the surface, working from the bottom up. Repeat for each section.

4)

Sample sheet

Carefully remove the application paper & masking tape

5)

Sample sheet

If possible let the vinyl be exposed to sunlight for a few days before washing. This will helps with adhesion.

Tips
Make sure the board or glass is completely clean before starting.
If using a large sheet you might need a helper.
Weather for outdoor work needs to be dry, still & not too cold.

Useful tools
Tape measure
1″ or 2″ masking tape
Scissors/scalpel
Squeegee

GUIDE FOR USING VINYL LETTERING

This sheet is intended to be used <u>as a guide only</u> for people to make their own signs from vinyl lettering supplied by us.

1) Vinyl is designed to be applied to smooth surfaces. Prepare this surface and make sure it is clean, dry, and free from grease & dirt.

2) Position the sheet & hold it temporarily at the top with 2 pieces of masking tape.

3) Tape all along the bottom edge. Make sure this is secure.

4) Remove the top tape & allow the sheet to fold down. Carefully remove the backing paper from the vinyl (vinyl is easily torn, so take care). If during this process some of the vinyl appears to be coming away with the backing paper & not sticking to the application paper, carefully press the vinyl on to the application paper.

5a) Small areas of vinyl can be applied wet or dry. To apply dry, simply lift back the application sheet which is holding the vinyl, press it into position, & use a squeegy to make sure the vinyl is well stuck & free from air bubbles.

5b) To help avoid air bubbles, larger areas are better applied wet. We use a mixture of mainly water, with a small amount of alcohol + a few drops of washing up liquid (don't put more than a few drops in - the vinyl won't stick). Spray either the sticky side of the vinyl or the board with this solution - don't put too much on. Lift up the vinyl, avoiding any creasing, press it into position, & give the application paper a good squeegying to get rid of the liquid & air bubbles from under the vinyl.

6) Wet the application paper, leave for a short while, and carefully remove the application paper from the vinyl.

7) Dry the vinyl & board with a soft cloth.

POSITIONING TIPS

To centre lettering:

1) On the application paper, mark a vertical centre line & a horizontal line. These should help position the image accurately.

2) Measure the centre of the board & mark it onto a piece of masking tape.

2) Use a plumb line from that point.

3) Position the vinyl sheets under the tape using the marks on the sheet.

If applying wet, the vinyl can usually be removed & repositioned, but avoid this if you can.

NOTES

Vinyl for the inside of a window/door to be viewed from the outside will be cut in reverse.

Vinyl sticks best to a very smooth surface. To help stick on to a poor surface such as painted plywood, use a hairdryer to soften the adhesive.

When squeegying the application paper, work from the inside to the outside to remove any excess liquid & air bubbles.

WHAT YOU NEED

A squeegy

A ruler/tape measure

Masking tape

Fluid

Scissors/scalpel

Cloths

Dry Application Instructions

Bottom Hinge Method

1   Surfaces must be thoroughly cleaned before applying your vinyl graphics.

2   On a flat surface use a squeegee (or credit card) to wipe over the whole sheet (lots of pressure) to ensure that the application tape has adhered to the front of the vinyl.

3   Accurately mark where the sign is to go, then tape the sign into position using small pieces of masking tape.

4   Use wide masking tape (at least 1") to create a hinge with half the masking tape on bottom of the sign and the other half on the application surface. Squeegee the masking tape hinge firmly into position.

5   To apply, lift the sign away from the surface and fold back on the hinge. Peel off the backing paper (exposing the vinyl adhesive) before starting at the bottom centre to squeegee up and outwards towards each edge. For large pre-spaced signs do as above but slit between each letter so that every letter can be applied individually.

6   Now carefully remove the application tape diagonally. Air bubbles can be removed by puncturing the bubble with a pin and squeegeeing the trapped air towards and out of the puncture. Finally re-squeegee the sign again paying particular attention to the edges.

Wet Application Instructions

This method is used when applying large or multi-coloured signs and helps greatly in the elimination of air bubbles. The application of a liquid to the adhesive forms a barrier, which temporarily neutralizes the adhesive and allows the vinyl to be repositioned several times.

1-4 as dry application method

5   Make up a lukewarm solution of water and enzyme free washing up liquid, in the ratio of approx. 3 drops of soap to 1 pint of water.

6   Lightly wet the substrate and the sticky side of the vinyl with the solution, best done with a hand spray.

7   Starting at the bottom centre squeegee up and outwards towards each edge or if no positioning masking tape was used the sign can then be floated into position. When correctly positioned dab the sign down to hold the sign in place. Now firmly squeegee the image working from the center outwards towards the edges. This should remove as much of the water solution as possible to enable adhesive action to commence. After allowing 30 to 60 minutes to pass (temperature dependant) re-squeegee the entire image to ensure maximum evacuation of the solution and thus maximum adhesion.

8   Carefully remove the Application Tape diagonally ensuring that sufficient adhesion has been reached by the lettering. Finally re-squeegee over the entire sign again, paying attention to all leading edges.