

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applying pressure sensitive vinyl decals isn't rocket science. Anyone can do it, but it does require some common sense, a little manual dexterity and the right techniques. We can't help you with the common sense or manual dexterity, but we think the following photos and text will help you discover a little bit of the technique you need for a successful application ... one that you'll enjoy and your friends will envy for years.

Note: If pressure sensitive camouflage vinyl is applied to vehicles with paint that is not well bonded to the surface of the vehicle, some paint may be lost when the vinyl is removed.



Step 1.

Wash and dry the vehicle thoroughly. The cleaner the vehicle is the better the camouflage vinyl will adhere. After washing, wipe the entire vehicle down with isopropyl alcohol and grease/wax remover. Remember.....The more attention you pay to the cleanup and preparation, the more successful your application will be and the longer the camouflage vinyl will stay adhered. Pressure sensitive vinyl will not stick to rust or to flaking paint.



Step 2.

Leaving the paper release liner on the decal, position the first panel, holding it in place with small pieces of masking tape on each edge. Position the panel leaving the maximum amount of excess material to trim off. In other words, if you're covering a 2' area with a 5' piece of material, try to save the entire 3' excess. Note: It's always best to begin applying graphics at the rear of the vehicle, moving toward the front with subsequent panels. Using this approach, panel overlap will occur from front to rear, helping to eliminate the effects of wind against the seams



Step 3

Apply a masking tape "hinge" across the entire width at the top of the decal, half on the decal, half on the vehicle (2" wide tape works best for this). Using this hinge, lift the bottom of the decal and remove the paper fold back 2"3" of the paper liner and rub it in lease liner. (In lieu of a tape hinge, place by hand.) Let the decal drop against the vehicle. Don't worry.. the decal is produced using 3M's Comply™ Performance adhesive system, so it won't stick until you want it to stick.



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Step 4

Slip a protective sleeve over the squeegee and squeegee the decal in place, beginning in the center at the top of the decal. Your squeegee strokes should be smooth and firm, moving from the center out, alternating left and right. Try holding the squeegee angled approximately 10° to 20° toward the open or unsqueegeed area. Do not angle the squeegee toward an area that has already been squeegeed, because this will trap air and create bubbles and wrinkles. Until the squeegee has pushed the decal firmly against the surface, you can lift the decal away from the surface to reposition it, if necessary.



Step 5

When approaching vehicle body contours and moldings, squeegee strokes made perpendicular to the contour are more effective. Squeegee the decal into a crease or body line as show at left. Do not squeegee the decal on both sides of a concave contour and then attempt to stretch it into the contour. The idea is to apply the decal while minimizing stretching the material. Once you've passed the contours, revert to the normal side-to-side squeegee patterns.



Step 6

When you reach the end of a section, trim the excess material with a sharp knife. Save the excess for patching any troublesome areas you may encounter later. Or use it to cover your thermos bottle.



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Relief Cuts

Compound contours present the greatest challenge to decal application, but following a few easy steps will make it much more successful. Apply as much of the decal as possible to the flat surface's approaching the compound contour area. When you can no longer squeegee the decal without creating wrinkles or creases, it's time for a relief cut. Relief cuts are the best way to apply decals to compound curves.



(A) A horizontal cut was made to expose the headlamp and its trim.



(B). Then the decal was wrapped around the front of the vehicle and the diagonal relief cut was made



(C) in order to help the decal conform to the compound curves.



(D) The triangular shape created by the relief cut was applied to the front of the vehicle.



(E) Then the rest of the panel was applied over the first piece



(F) and the decal was trimmed along the line of the fender.

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Helpful Tips

- Use a thin retractable knife similar to the type used for hanging wall paper will aid in trimming and making relief cuts.
- A pair of scissors is also helpful in making straight relief cuts.
- **DO NOT USE WATER OR APPLICATION FLUIDS TO APPLY YOUR PRESSURE SENSITIVE CAMOUFLAGE VINYL. THEY MUST BE APPLIED DRY!**
- When applying to a vehicle, boat, atv plan your installation to start from the rear first and then work towards the front. This will protect your overlapping seams.
- If you are applying to vertical surfaces where a horizontal seam will occur, apply the lower section first so that your seam overlap runs top to bottom.
- Wrapping a gun or shotgun, start from the barrel and work to the stock so your seams face towards the end of the barrel.
- When exposing the adhesive of your pressure sensitive camo vinyl, save the liner for scraps that can be used to fill areas not completely covered.
- Always make sure all dirt and water has been removed from body seams and crevices to insure good adhesion.
- If you have areas that have rust, sand and prime these areas. Apply pressure sensitive camo vinyl after you have waited an adequate time for these areas to cure.
- Removal of vehicle emblems, taillights and reflectors aid in ease of application. Re-installation of these items creates a clean, crisp appearance.
- Emblems that are chrome can be painted with a flat black trim paint available at an auto parts store. This helps to eliminate the glare and matches the concealment properties of pressure sensitive camo vinyl.
- Vehicles that are painted red or that are light colored should have door jambs filled in with strips of camo or sprayed black so that a these areas don't stand out when the doors are shut.
- When applying camo vinyl to an ATV, remove any racks to ease installation. Fender and cowling removal will enable the camo to be rolled underneath and secured with 3/4"-1" striping tape.
- For questions or assistance with installing your pressure sensitive camo vinyl contact us:

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