

Decal Installation – Wet/Dry Method

CAUTION: Once the shiny bottom “liner” is removed the adhesive is exposed. Do not let the exposed graphic touch any unintended surface. The back of the graphic is very tacky and will tightly adhere to whatever it touches including itself. If the placement is not correct, removing the graphic for re-placement will be very difficult or impossible without causing damage to the vinyl. If you are shaky, use the wet method.

1. Measure where you want your decal to be. Then tape in place on 1 side only to use as a hinge, using blue painters masking tape.
2. Peel the bottom slippery “LINER” layer away from the DECAL and MASK LAYER starting at the opposite side of the masking taped hinge, and slowly remove it.



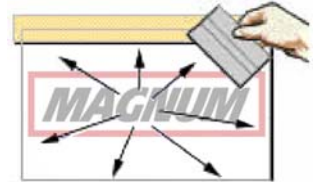
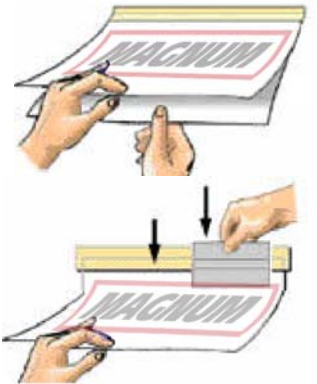
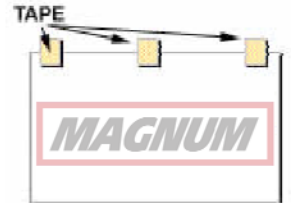
* **NOTE:** We recommend inserting a wet step here for beginners and larger decals. It allows you to move the decal into place and even remove and reposition it if needed prior to setting up. To use the wet method placement, mist the rocket surface with a mixture of soap and water. (Shown to the left)

3. While still holding the PRE-MASK layer away from the smooth surface. Use a squeegee, credit card or any plastic straight edge to help in application. Start from the side with the tape and gently work away from the tape and squeegee out all water and soap.

NOTE: The decals have a pressure sensitive adhesive - the harder you rub the harder it sticks, also the longer you let it sit, the stronger the adhesive will adhere.

4. Use your squeegee and apply pressure from the middle to the outward sides, this will remove all water and start the decal adhesion. Let sit for 5 minutes before removing. If your decal appears to not be sticking the fluid is still behind the decal, just squeegee again and let sit for 10-15 minutes. A rub with a soft cloth can also be useful.
5. Now you're ready to pull off your PRE-MASK layer and view your decal. Gently pull it off, if you see some vinyl start to come up with the PRE-MASK then lay it back down, squeegee, and wait a few minutes and try again.
6. Prick any air bubbles with a pin and rub down. Be sure that outer edges of decal are rubbed down smoothly and all liquid is forced out. This is essential for proper adhesion

Tip: * TIP Use a hair dryer to speed the drying process. Again, be patient, and proceed steadily but cautiously. After all the application tape has been removed, wipe area again with paper towel to remove excess water.



All Wet Method

The all wet method is recommended on decals larger than 10" x 15" in size, when you are not a seasoned pro and when complicated shapes are involved. In general it is much more forgiving and is recommended for most humans.

1. Be sure that the surface is clean and free from residue. Find center of decal and the surface on which you want to apply it. Hold the decal in place desired and mark two top corners with pencil.
2. Next you will use your wet application fluid from above and a sponge to **wet the adhesive surface only as you expose it**. DO NOT wet the protective backing sheet (LINER) or the protective mask layer.
3. Start separating the decal at one corner and pull it back slowly, keeping the adhesive back of the decal wet sponging on the fluid as you go – once it is wet, the vinyl becomes quite easy to handle and you don't have to worry about it folding back on itself.
4. Wet the rocket surface with the same solution mixed previously and position the decal to the marks established in No. 1. Wet hands with solution and rub over decal lightly, smoothing out any wrinkles.
5. Work out water with plastic squeegee and dry excess liquid with a soft cloth or paper towel. Squeegee the decal from top to bottom beginning at the center. Rub from right from center, and left from center overlapping strokes 50%. Prick any air bubbles that you can't squeegee out with a pin and rub down. Be sure that outer edges of decal are rubbed down smoothly and all liquid is forced out. This is essential for proper adhesion. Decal must dry out for 24 hours before adhesion is complete.

DECAL REMOVAL

Should you ever need to remove a LOC PRECISION decal, it is best to use heat.

1. Begin by heating one corner of the marking with a blow dryer, heat lamp, hot water or heat gun until hot to the touch. Pick up an lift that area you just heated (use a razor only on glass surfaces). Slowly begin pulling back the decal, at less than a 90 degree angle. Continue applying heat to the area just before the area that is being removed. Don't get it too hot or the paint under will begin to peel away or blister.
2. Once you have removed the decal, check to make sure that the entire adhesive residue has been removed. The dull sticky residue may be removed by using Isopropyl (rubbing) Alcohol.

How to Apply your LOC PRECISION Vinyl Decals

Take your time – your rocket is nearly complete.

Suggested Tools / Materials:

- Clean Spray Bottle
- Dishwashing Soap, Dawn, Ivory or similar.
- Rubbing Alcohol
- Blue Painter's Tape
- Tack Rag or other Lint Free Towel
- Plastic Squeegee (purchase plastic spreaders used for applying "Bondo" Body Filler)
- Roll of Paper Towels

Most LOC PRECISION decals come to you pressed together in three layers as shown to the right. If not, the upper "Pre Mask" layer will be missing.



1. The top layer is the **"transfer tape" or "pre-mask"**. It looks like wide masking tape or sometimes almost clear tape. It protects the decal during shipment and is used to apply and protect your decal as you put it on your rocket. This layer may have visible wrinkles markings and stains on the surface but relax, the decal underneath is going to be fine.
2. The middle layer is the **actual vinyl decal**. This will lift off of the liner with your transfer tape when you're ready to apply the decal.
3. The bottom layer is the **backing or "LINER"**. This is the shiny waxy surface that protects the adhesive side in shipment.

DOC's Vinyl Application Tips....

- Do not apply in cold weather (under 50 degrees) - adhesive may stick but will lift easily.
- Do not apply in extreme heat (over 90 degrees) - apply in the shade - Hot vinyl will get very soft and stretch making it ugly on a rocket.
- **Do not use alcohol to apply** - it will destroy the adhesive. Just use it to clean your surface well, let it dry before trying to apply.
- Do not use ice scraper or putty knife on the sticker/decals - sharp edges may cause it to lift or chip pieces off.
- Do not touch the adhesive backing of the decal - oils from your skin will prevent it from sticking.
- Before application make sure there is no wax or cleaning products on the rocket's surface - adhesive may stick but will lift easily.
- **Don't apply wax over graphics, especially if the wax contains any petroleum distillates.**
- **If you use a clear coat be sure to go lightly on the first couple of coats and let dry before touching** - some clear coat sprays will eat vinyl graphics and cause paint to crack and peel - be sure to test first if you plan on doing so.

STEP 1: CLEAN CLEAN CLEAN the surface you want to decorate!

Vinyl graphics stick best to smooth clean surfaces. To ensure good adhesion to any painted surface, it is critical that you follow these recommended procedures in decontaminating and preparing the surface prior to any vinyl product installation.

1. Wash and rinse the area with liquid dish detergent and warm water - really scrub it down. Then dry the surface with a clean, lint-free towel or cloth.
2. Finish up the cleaning process by wiping down the entire area with Isopropyl (rubbing) Alcohol. To avoid recontamination during the final cleaning step, wipe the surface in just one direction, using a clean, lint-free towel or cloth. Let the alcohol evaporate completely. You are now ready to apply the vinyl.

Step 2: Decide on your Application Procedure:

You can choose to apply vinyl in one of two ways; dry or wet. Applying vinyl dry does not allow for any mistakes. It is mostly recommended for small decals. Once the dry vinyl adhesive back touches a surface, there is no removal without damage. We suggest that all customers use the wet process for larger or complicated graphics.

Step 3: Make up some Wet Application Fluid:

You can make your own application fluid with 4 drops of dishwashing liquid (Dawn, Joy, or similar dishwashing soap) to 1 quart of water in a spray bottle. For emergencies, keeping a bowl of this handy to dip the decal in can save the day when things go wrong. (Glass Plus or other non-ammonia window cleaner may also be used for applying vinyl decals in a pinch).

1. Before you start, rub the decal down on a hard surface with a credit card or squeegee it to insure the protective "Pre Mask" layer is well adhered to the vinyl decal prior to placement. Lines or wrinkles in the pre mask layer should have no effect on the final installed decal.
2. Cut the intended portion of the decal you wish to install from the sheet leaving some room for installation.