

Prep, Installation, and Removal of Wall Vinyl Graphics

Our Wall Graphic vinyl can be applied to any flat, smooth, clean sign substrate or directly to painted drywall, kitchen cabinets or refrigerators. The operative word is “clean”. If the surface is not clean, you may have adhesion problems. Carefully inspect the condition of the walls, before applying any pressure-sensitive vinyl film.

Not every surface is suitable for vinyl graphics application.

Preparing Older Wall Surfaces

- **Clean wall well.** Older walls may be contaminated with years of grease, dirt, and smoke. The wall must be cleaned before applying either a new coat of paint or pressure-sensitive materials. See instructions below.
- **Repair any damage.** Don't expect wall graphics to adhere to peeling or chipped paint, dented wall surfaces, or holes in the wall.

Washing the walls

You can wash the wall with trisodium phosphate (TSP), a heavy-duty cleaner that cuts through grease, etc. This is available at hardware stores. For cleaning walls, mix and apply TSP according to the manufacturer's instructions. Although the TSP cleaners vary, typically about 1/4-cup of TSP is mixed into a gallon of very warm water.

Warning:

A strong solution of TSP can strip paint off of wood, discolor metal, and damage some plastics. Because TSP is a powerful cleaner, you should always wear rubber gloves and safety glasses when using this product. Avoid direct contact with your eyes and skin. After washing with TSP, wait for the wall to dry before painting.

- Using a sponge, apply the cleaner to the wall surface. Drench the sponge in clean water, wringing it out until it is just damp. Wipe the dirt and grime from the wall surface.
- Using a wet sponge, wipe the surface immediately after cleaning. Failure to properly rinse the residue from the wall will contaminate the surface, which will likely cause problems when repainting the wall or applying pressure-sensitive wall graphics.

Preparing Newly Painted Walls

- **Allow paint to cure.** If the walls have been newly painted, allow the paint to cure for at least a week before applying the vinyl. Only after the paint has thoroughly dried, can you install pressure sensitive wall graphics. High humidity or cold temperatures can slow this curing process down.
- **Prep the newly painted wall by wiping it down** to with a damp, lint-free rag. Use a mixture of 50% water and 50% alcohol. Wait a half of an hour for the wall to dry thoroughly before starting the application.

**If there are rough spots caused by debris in the paint, you may need to lightly sand these areas before applying the vinyl wall graphics. Remember: the wall should be smooth as possible.

Applying Wall Vinyl

- **Apply the graphics dry.** When applying vinyl graphics to painted drywall, do not use any wet application fluid or water.

Removals

The ease or difficulty encountered in removals depends on several variables, such as surface characteristics of the wall and the length of time the vinyl has been applied. The longer any pressure sensitive film remains on a substrate, the stronger the ultimate adhesion becomes. Even “so-called” removable adhesives eventually become permanent over time.

Our Oracal 631 Wall Vinyl removes cleanly, with no adhesive residue or damage to the surface, within 2 years of installation. After 2 years, it can become a little more difficult. Use care during removal.

After 3 years, the adhesive of the Wall Vinyl will become permanent! Be prepared for much more difficult removal. There may be residue left on the wall, and even damage to the wall during removal.

Excerpts and information taken from Hingst's Sign Post : Installation and Removal of EZ Erase – August 15, 2012