



TECHNICAL BULLETIN 4.01

Preparation of Non-Vehicular Surfaces

This bulletin details specific surface preparation and application instructions of vinyl graphic products onto non-vehicular surfaces. Applications will be successful if the instructions are followed completely.

GENERAL SURFACE PREPARATIONS:

All surfaces are considered contaminated until properly cleaned. Thus, all surfaces **MUST** be cleaned prior to any application of vinyl graphic products. See the following steps:

1. Wash the surface with detergent and water, then thoroughly rinse the surface with water and dry completely.
2. Saturate a clean cloth with a solvent approved by local EPA regulations and wipe the surface to remove any contaminants such as silicone, wax, chalk or adhesives.
3. Dry the surface with a lint free towel before the solvent evaporates.
4. Spray the surface with isopropyl alcohol (recommended) or BETCO® CitruSolv degreaser; follow immediately to dry the surface with clean dry towel. This should remove any residue remaining from the cleaning solvent.

SPECIFIC SURFACE PREPARATIONS:

The following recommendations describe surface preparation procedures. All surfaces need to be evaluated to determine if they meet performance criteria as detailed.

UNPAINTED METAL SURFACE PREPARATIONS:

- Aluminum – Uncoated and Unetched
 1. Degrease and etch; or
 2. Degrease and prepare with a light coating of a tight amorphous chromate.
 3. Saturate a clean cloth with a solvent approved by local EPA regulations and wipe the surface.
 4. Dry the surface with a lint free paper towel before the solvent evaporates.
- Aluminum – Anodized Pre-etched
 1. Saturate a clean cloth with a solvent approved by local EPA regulations and wipe the surface.
 2. Dry the surface with a lint free paper towel before the solvent evaporates.
- Aluminum – Amorphous Chromate Coated
 1. Saturate a clean cloth with a solvent approved by local EPA regulations and wipe the surface.
 2. Dry the surface with a lint free paper towel before the solvent evaporates.
- Steel – Phosphate Coated Galvanized
 1. Scrub surface with a Scotch-Brite™ pad soaked with a 6-8% phosphoric acid solution.
 2. Rinse with water.
 3. Force drying may be required to eliminate all trapped moisture.

- Steel – Electro Galvanized
 - Zinc electroplated
 - Cold rolled
 - Hot rolled pickled
 - Black iron
 - 1. Degrease and etch; or
 - 2. Degrease and prepare with a light coating of a tight amorphous chromate.
 - 3. Prime and paint.

- Stainless Steel and Chrome
- Follow general surface preparation for this application.

UNPAINTED WOOD SURFACE PREPARATION:

Avoid heavy resinous-coated woods. Users must evaluate before use and obtain surface preparation instructions from the wood supplier.

1. Wood surface needs to be buffed or sanded with fine sand paper
2. Wipe surface clean.
3. Seal open grain wood with high quality wood sealer.
4. Prime and paint surface and all edges.

PLASTICS SURFACE PREPARATION:

- Fiberglass, Acrylics, Plexiglas, ABS, and Polycarbonates

1. Wipe with isopropyl alcohol and then wipe dry.
2. Test vinyl for outgassing: Apply a small piece of vinyl to surface and allow it to condition for 24 hours. If bubbles appear under the vinyl, outgassing is occurring.

Note: For more specific information, contact Sharpline Tech Support.

- Polyethylene and polypropylene

1. Solvent wipe.
2. Flame treat.

Note: For more specific information, contact Sharpline Tech Support.

- Styrene Polystyrene

Not recommended for exterior exposure applications.

1. Solvent wipe.

MISCELLANEOUS SURFACE PREPARATION:

- Glass

1. Solvent wipe with a 2 to 1 mixture of water and isopropyl alcohol.
DO NOT use Windex™ or similar type products for surface preparation.

- Rubber

Not recommended or warranted.

- Concrete and Brick

Surfaces must be smooth and primed with an adhesive promoter.

For technical assistance relating to specific application questions or Sharpline's product line,
Call Sharpline's Technical Support at 1-800-888-4888 or write to:

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