

# VINYL APPLICATION GUIDE

## BEFORE YOU START:

Please read through these instructions carefully prior to the application of your sticker. This guide applies to most types of vinyl application including vehicles, sign boards, windows, or any other smooth, non-porous surface (surfaces not recommended for application includes cement, masonry, bare timber, peeling paint etc.). ABL Signs will not replace any stickers damaged as a result of incorrect application.

## STUFF YOU WILL NEED:

Soap and water, paper towel, isopropyl alcohol if possible, masking tape, squeegee and a craft knife.

## PREPERATION:

This is the most important step. The surface must be free from dust and dirt etc. If the surface is not completely clean the sticker may not stick properly or cause little bubbles. The cleaner the surface, the better the finish. Make sure that you clean the area thoroughly with soap and water and dry off with a paper towel. Then clean again with the isopropyl alcohol if possible using a dry cloth before the cleaning fluid has had a chance to evaporate.

Next, lay the sticker on a flat surface with the application tape side up and firmly wipe over with the squeegee to make sure the application tape has a good grip on the vinyl.

## POSITIONING IT :

Position your sticker in the desired location and hold it in place with a piece of masking tape. Once you are happy with the positioning, place a strip of masking tape along one edge (usually the top) to create a hinge and remove all other bits of masking tape. This may not be necessary for small stickers.

## STICKING IT ON:

Lift the sticker on its hinge, ensuring that you do not pull on the masking tape (if applicable). Carefully peel the backing paper from the sticker while using the squeegee to slowly work your way down the sticker, firmly wiping left and right from the centre until the sticker is fully stuck to the surface. At this point it may be a good idea to go over the sticker again with the squeegee to ensure good adhesion has been attained. Wait a couple of minutes (longer for glass) to allow the adhesive to bond to the surface before proceeding.

## THE NEXT STEP:

Firstly remove the masking tape hinge, then, very slowly, peel off the application tape starting from a corner. If the sticker starts to come away from the surface, repeat the previous step.

## NEARLY FINISHED:

Once you've finished you may find that some air bubbles have been trapped under the vinyl. Don't worry you haven't done anything wrong; it is pretty much unavoidable and is easily remedied by pricking the edge of any bubbles with a knife or pin and carefully squeezing the air out through the prick. Any very small bubbles should disappear naturally over the next few days.

## TIPS:

Avoid applying the sticker in extremes of heat and cold. Too hot and the vinyl can become stretchy, too cold and it can become brittle. If the surface temperature is below 5°C the adhesive will not stick very well, in this case use a hairdryer or heat gun to warm up the surface.

On very long stickers you may find it easier to work in sections. After creating the hinge simply cut the sticker into sections right up to the hinge, between each word or letter for example. Leave the backing paper on the sections you are not working on.

Occasionally, when peeling the backing from the application tape, you may find that some of the vinyl sticks to the backing paper and not the application tape. If this happens you will need to go back and squeegee that part again to ensure that the application tape has got a good grip on the vinyl in that area.

If you have any questions or require further advice, feel free to contact us.

