



PRECISIONCUT[®]

Decal Installation Manual

Important

Please thoroughly review these instructions — failure to do so may result in permanent damage to your decal.

Installing a large vinyl decal is not as simple as “peel and stick.” Many variables can cause damage to your decal before, during and after installation. Understanding how our decals are produced and what variables can affect the decal will significantly improve your installation experience. We highly recommend hiring a professional to install your decal.

If your package arrives damaged, please inspect the decals for any creases, tears, or other obvious damage. If the decals are damaged, please do not attempt installation. Contact us via email at support@acorngfx.com with your order number, a description of the damage, and photos of the damaged packaging and decals.

We recommend leaving the decals rolled face-out inside the shipping tube in a climate-controlled area, out of direct sunlight, until you are ready to complete the installation.

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① Have Questions? Send an email to support@acorngfx.com. Support hours are Monday–Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm (MST), closed Saturday, Sunday and most holidays.

Decal Construction

Our PrezisionCut® decals are constructed in three layers: (1) the release liner, (2) the vinyl film, and (3) the transfer tape.

Release Liner

The release liner is a white or blue silicone-coated paper that protects the adhesive side of the vinyl film during production, shipping, and installation. The release liner will be removed during installation and discarded.

Vinyl Film (Decal)

The vinyl film (actual decal) is layered between the release liner and transfer tape and has a specially-formulated clear, solvent-based adhesive coated on the back of the film.

Transfer Tape

The transfer tape is a transparent clear vinyl film or translucent paper film with a specially-formulated adhesive coating designed to adhere to the vinyl film and keep the design together in one piece during installation. The transfer tape will be removed during installation and discarded.

Installation Methods

Dry/Hinge Method

The dry/hinge installation is the fastest method to install decals (average 20-90 minute installation times). However, unlike the wet method, you only have one attempt to get it positioned and installed. Once the vinyl film touches the window surface, it cannot be removed without causing permanent damage.

Wet Method

The wet installation takes the most time to complete (up to 24 hours). However, it allows you to reposition and reapply the decal during installation and reduces air-bubble formation, making it great for beginners. The temperature, humidity, and amount of application fluid used will determine the required amount of dry time.

Conditions & Preparation

Location

Although we recommend installing the decal in an enclosed, climate-controlled area, the installation may be completed outside with extra precautions. If you are performing the installation outside, you want to choose a location out of direct sunlight and free from airborne contaminants. Leave any additional decals in a climate-controlled area out of direct sunlight.

Temperature & Humidity

The ideal air and window surface temperature for installation is between 60°F - 80°F. Temperatures above 80°F may cause the adhesive to become extra-tacky and can warp the transfer tape and vinyl. Temperatures below 60°F may cause the adhesive to lose its adhesive properties.

The humidity level, combined with the air temperature, will determine the drying time required for the wet installation method. If the humidity is high or temperatures are low, dry times will be longer.

Installation Surface Cleanliness

Inadequate or incorrect cleaning is the number one cause of decal failure. Waxes, polishes, ceramic-coats, or other vehicle treatments must be thoroughly removed from the surface of the window.

Make sure you thoroughly clean the window surface and surrounding area with a non-residue, oil-free and ammonia-free glass cleaner followed by a small amount of denatured or rubbing alcohol applied to a clean, lint-free paper towel or cloth. If you are unsure if your glass cleaner is oil and ammonia-free, you may solely use denatured or rubbing alcohol.

You may also use a square-edge razor blade scraper to remove contaminants like tree sap or tar — just be extremely careful not to scratch your window.

Tools & Supplies

Glass Cleaner

Used to clean and prepare the window surface before installation. Use non-residue, oil-free and ammonia-free glass cleaners only.

Denatured or Rubbing Alcohol

Used to clean stubborn contaminants and as a final surface cleaning before installation.

Application Fluid (Wet Installation Method Only)

Used to create a temporary barrier between the vinyl film and surface of the window which allows for the decal to be freely moved for a short period of time and helps reduce air-bubbles. Please visit our website to purchase our specially formulated application fluid.

Clean, Lint-Free Paper Towels or Cloth

Used to clean the window and soak-up excess application fluids.

Masking Tape

Used to help hold the decal in various places during installation. Any generic masking tape will work. Do not use high-tack tapes like duct-tape.

Scissors or Razor Blade

Used to trim the release liner during installation. Be extremely careful not to scratch your window.

Assistant

We highly recommend having someone assist you with the installation.

How To Make An Application Fluid At Home

Please follow the recipe below precisely. We cannot guarantee the results of your installation with homemade fluids.

In a clean spray bottle, combine:

- 7.5oz of Distilled Water
- 0.5 oz of Denatured Alcohol
- 1/16 tsp of Mild Dish Soap (Dawn Free & Clear)

Dry/Hinge Installation Instructions

Step 1

Unroll the decal in a climate-controlled area and lay it face-up on a smooth, flat, clean surface. Using the application card or squeegee at a 45° angle with moderate pressure, start in the center of the decal and squeegee towards the outer edge in all directions. This will help re-adhere any areas of the transfer tape that may have become delaminated from the vinyl film during shipping.

Step 2

Position the decal face-out on the window. Align the decal to the window — keep in mind that it has been designed with a 1/8" offset (the decal is 1/8" +/- smaller than the window). Some designs feature 1/8" installation guides which will be removed after installation.

Use masking tape to hold the decal in place at all four corners. Once you have the decal lined-up to the window, place a single piece of masking tape vertically across the center of the decal and onto the body panels on either side — this will create the "hinge."

Step 3

Remove all pieces of masking tape from one side of the hinge. Do not remove the hinge piece of masking tape. Start slowly and gently removing the transfer tape from one half of the release liner. If a section/piece of vinyl film remains adhered to the release liner, immediately stop peeling. Carefully roll the transfer tape back over the section/piece and use the application card or squeegee to adhere it to the transfer tape. Continue slowly peeling the transfer tape away from the release liner until you reach the hinge.

Be careful not to touch the adhesive side of the vinyl film with your fingers or to the surface of the window.

Step 4

Cut the release liner with a razor blade or scissors just to the side of the hinge (if paper lint is present, wipe away with a clean, lint-free paper towel or cloth and alcohol). Fold the exposed side of the vinyl film back over — do not let the vinyl film touch the window. Hold the transfer tape taut above the window and use the application card or squeegee at a 45° angle to begin working the vinyl film onto the surface of the window starting at the center of the decal and moving vertically from center-out. Use moderate to firm pressure and work in small sections until you reach the end of the decal.

Remove the remaining pieces of masking tape, including the hinge piece. The transfer tape will now hold the decal in place.

Repeat steps 3 and 4 for the remaining side of the decal.

Step 5

Run the application card or squeegee, starting from the center and working towards the outer edge, across the entire decal to ensure you have adhered the vinyl film to the window. The adhesive coated on the vinyl film is pressure-sensitive, so the more you squeegee the decal, the better it will adhere.

Step 6

Starting in one corner, slowly and gently begin peeling the transfer tape away from the window. The vinyl film should remain adhered to the window. If a section/piece of vinyl film remains adhered to the transfer tape, immediately stop peeling. Carefully roll the transfer tape back over the section/piece and use the application card or squeegee to adhere it to the window. Continue slowly peeling the transfer tape away from the window until it is completely removed.

❗ *For decals with our translucent paper transfer tape applied, you may apply water or application fluid to the outside surface of the transfer tape prior to removal. This will help loosen the adhesive on the transfer tape (this does not work with our transparent vinyl transfer tape).*

Step 7

Your installation is now complete. If your decal features installation guides (1/8" lines that follow the shape of the window in areas where the design is not present), you may now remove them. Please review our Care & Maintenance Guide for information on how to extend the life of your decal.

Please allow at least 72 hours before washing your vehicle.



Demonstration Video

For visual reference only. Please read these instructions prior to installation. (<http://agfx.us/pdinst>)

Wet Installation Instructions

Step 1

Unroll the decal in a climate-controlled area and lay it face-up on a smooth, flat, clean surface. Using the application card or squeegee at a 45° angle with moderate pressure, start in the center of the decal and squeegee towards the outer edge in all directions. This will help re-adhere any areas of the transfer tape that may have become delaminated from the vinyl film during shipping.

Step 2

Place the decal face-down and start slowly and gently removing the release liner from the transfer tape. If a section/piece of vinyl film remains adhered to the release liner, immediately stop peeling. Carefully roll the transfer tape back over the section/piece and use the application card or squeegee to adhere it to the transfer tape. Continue slowly peeling the release liner away from the transfer tape until completely removed.

Be careful not to touch the adhesive side of the vinyl film with your fingers or to the surface of the window.

Step 3

Mist the adhesive side of the decal and the surface of the window with application fluid. You want a fine, even mist — don't flood the decal or window with fluid. Gently place the adhesive side of the decal onto the window. You should feel a little tack but still be able to position or remove and reapply the decal. Align the decal to the window — keep in mind that it has been designed with a 1/8" offset (the decal is 1/8" +/- smaller than the window). Some designs feature 1/8" installation guides which will be removed after installation.

Step 4

Once you have the decal positioned where you want it, use the application card or squeegee at a 45° angle, starting in the center of the decal, and begin pushing the fluid towards the outer edge. Use a clean, lint-free paper towel or cloth to soak up excess fluid from around the outer edge of the transfer tape.

Continue using the application card or squeegee with moderate pressure to force as much fluid out as possible from under the vinyl film and transfer tape. The adhesive coated on the vinyl film is pressure-sensitive, so the more you squeegee the decal, the better it will adhere.

Step 5

(A) For decals with our transparent vinyl transfer tape (most common), allow the decal to dry for at least 1-2 hours before attempting to remove the transfer tape.

Dry times can vary widely depending on the temperature and humidity. It can take up to 24 hours for your decal to dry before you can remove the transfer tape. Continue to step 6.

(B) For decals with our translucent paper transfer tape applied, you may immediately apply water or application fluid to the outside surface of the transfer tape and begin slowly and gently removing the transfer tape from the decal. If a section/piece of vinyl film remains adhered to the transfer tape, immediately stop peeling. Carefully roll the transfer tape back over the section/piece and use the application card or squeegee to adhere it to the window. Continue slowly peeling the transfer tape away from the window until it is completely removed. Continue to step 7.

Step 6

Once you've allowed enough dry-time, begin slowly and gently removing the transfer tape from the decal. If a section/piece of vinyl film remains adhered to the transfer tape, immediately stop peeling. Carefully roll the transfer tape back over the section/piece and use the application card or squeegee to adhere it to the window. Continue slowly peeling the transfer tape away from the window until it is completely removed.

❗ If the vinyl film continues to adhere to the release liner and not the window or if you notice excess moisture underneath the transfer tape, you may need to allow more time for the decal to dry.

Step 7

Your installation is now complete. Use a clean, lint-free paper towel or cloth to soak up any remaining moisture around the decal. If your decal features installation guides (1/8" lines that follow the shape of the window in areas where the design is not present), you may now remove them. Your decal and window may appear dirty from left-over application fluid — Please allow at least 72 hours before cleaning the decal/window or washing your vehicle.

Please review our Care & Maintenance Guide for information on how to extend the life of your decal.



Demonstration Video

For visual reference only. Please read these instructions prior to installation. (<http://agfx.us/pwinst>)

Care & Maintenance Guide

Air Bubbles

Air bubbles are common and typically dissipate on their own within 1-2 weeks. If air-bubbles persist, you may use a pin-head to poke a small hole in the center of the bubble and use the application card or squeegee to work the air out.

Cleaning the Decal

Cleaning your decal helps promote a longer life expectancy when done correctly. We recommend cleaning your decal when you notice a build-up of dirt or contaminants around the vinyl film.

Using ammonia-free glass cleaner, lightly mist the decal/window and carefully wipe the surface with a clean, lint-free paper towel or cloth. Be very cautious around the edges of the vinyl film, especially sharp corners and areas of the design that are thin.

The vinyl film is very resilient, but not invincible. Although you may use automated car washes or high-pressure/temperature pressure washers, be aware that these may damage the vinyl film.

The frequency at which you wash your vehicle, the type of wash, and the chemicals used will all affect the life-expectancy of your decal. For best results, we recommend hand-washing your vehicle with mild car wash soaps.

Maintaining the Decal

The vinyl film may become damaged due to a variety of reasons. Most damages are small and can be easily repaired at home. If you notice a piece of vinyl film that is beginning to peel, we recommend using an Exacto-Knife to trim the portion of vinyl film that is no longer adhering to prevent it from further de-adhering. Be extremely careful not to scratch your window.

For large areas that are damaged, we encourage you to use your imagination and trim the vinyl film in a way that compliments the design.

Limited Warranty

Acorn Graphics warrants that the vinyl film decals produced and sold by Acorn Graphics shall be free from defects in workmanship or materials for a period of one (1) year from the date of original purchase. This Limited Warranty only covers failures due to defects in workmanship and materials — it does not cover defects for any other reason, including but not limited to, normal wear and tear or cosmetic damage, damages occurring during shipment, or failures resulting from accidents, misuse, abuse, neglect, mishandling, misapplication, alteration, modification, or improper installation or use.

If Acorn Graphics is notified of a covered defect arising during the warranty period, Acorn Graphics will replace the defective decal(s). The sole remedy for breach of the limited warranty described herein is the replacement of the defective decal(s). Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, or limitations on how long an implied warranty may last, so the above limitations may not apply to you.

This limited warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights, which vary from state to state. Except for those other rights, if any, the remedies provided under this limited warranty are exclusive; there are no other obligations or responsibilities of Acorn Graphics.

Additionally, Acorn Graphics will offer the original buyer one (1) discounted replacement decal for each decal purchased for a period of thirty (30) days from the original purchase date.

THERE ARE NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS LIMITED WARRANTY SECTION OR AS REQUIRED UNDER APPLICABLE LAW. ACORN GRAPHICS LLC SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES WHATSOEVER RESULTING FROM THE USE OF ITS PRODUCTS (FOR EXAMPLE: DAMAGE TO ANY DECAL, GLASS OR WINDOW TO WHICH THE DECAL MAY BE APPLIED), OR MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, IF ANY, SHALL BE LIMITED TO THE WARRANTY PERIOD.

Recycle. Reduce. Reuse.

We care deeply about our environment and envision a future where humans are a net positive contributor to our planet and humanity. At the heart of everything we do in our shop, this vision is a constant factor in how we produce and sell our products. From sourcing materials from companies committed to recycling, to developing production methods that significantly reduce waste, we are committed to you and our future generations. The materials we use are sourced from manufacturers who have developed recycling programs to contribute to a circular material lifecycle.

We encourage you to not only properly recycle our products and packaging — but to also tread carefully while overlanding, respect our public lands, properly extinguish your fires, and pack-in pack-out.

For more information about our sustainability efforts, what portions of our products and packaging are recyclable, and public events that benefit our land and overlanding community, please visit www.acorngfx.com/recycle.