

Important

Please thoroughly and carefully read these instructions. Failure to do so may result in permanent damage to your decal.

Installing large vinyl decals is unfortunately not as simple as “peel and stick”. There are numerous variables that can cause damage to your decal before, during, and after installation. It is important to understand how the decals are constructed and what variables can effect the decal. Please visit www.acorngfx.com/support for installation videos and additional information.

We highly recommend having a professional install your decal.

Package Arrival

Your decal will arrive rolled-up, face-out inside our 100% recyclable branded shipping box. Inspect the box upon delivery for any damage – if you notice that the box has been crushed and/or the decal is damaged, please contact us immediately by email or phone.

You may remove the decal from the box and inspect it upon arrival, but we highly recommend rolling the decal back up and leaving it in the box until the day you plan to complete the installation. This will help keep the transfer tape from delaminating from the decal. Store the decal out of direct sunlight in a cool, dry, climate-controlled area until the day of installation.

Professional Installation vs. Self-Installation

We highly recommend hiring a professional to install your decal. Most tint, sign, or wrap companies will install the decal for a small installation fee. A professional will not only have the experience and additional tools, but will most likely have a climate-controlled area to complete the installation in.

We have provided these detailed installation instructions and videos so you can complete the installation yourself. If you have any questions prior to installation, please don't hesitate to contact us by email or phone.

Decal Construction

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

Release Liner

The release liner is a white (or blue if you ordered white vinyl) silicone-coated paper that protects the adhesive side of the decal during production, shipping, and installation. The release liner will be removed, either in whole or in part, during the installation and discarded.

Decal (Vinyl Material)

The decal is sandwiched between the release liner and transfer tape and has a specially formulated clear, solvent-based adhesive coated on the back of the material.

Transfer Tape

The transfer tape is a clear vinyl material with a medium-tack adhesive coating designed to adhere to the decal and keep the design together in one piece during installation. Once the decal is installed (and you have allowed enough dry time if you use the

wet method) you will remove and discard the transfer tape.

Your decal will be shipped with extra release liner and transfer tape around the outside edge of the decal. This additional material is intended to assist with the wet installation method. However, it may be trimmed with scissors up to the vinyl material if you feel it would be easier to align the decal to the window.

Environmental Conditions

There are numerous environmental factors that can effect the decal before, during, and after installation. This includes the installation location, air temperature, substrate temperature, humidity level, windv, and substrate cleanliness.

Although we recommend installing your decal in an enclosed, climate-controlled environment (ie. A garage or shop), we understand that's not always feasible. If you are performing the installation outside, you want to choose a location that is out of direct sunlight and free from airborne contaminants (ie. Under a tree that sheds leaves/cotton, in the middle of a dirt field, etc).

The ideal air temperature and substrate temperature is between 60°F and 80°F. Temperatures above 80°F may cause the adhesive to become incredibly tacky and can warp the transfer tape and/or vinyl, making installation difficult. Temperatures below 60°F will cause the adhesive to loose its adhesive properties, causing the decal to not adhere to the substrate.

The humidity level, combined with the air temperature, will determine the drying time for wet installation methods only (other installation methods are typically not affected by humidity). If the humidity is high, dry times will be longer.

We do not recommend installing the decal while it is windy. You will not only be exposing the adhesive side of the vinyl to the open air, but you will also be holding part of the decal with one hand and performing the installation with the other (unless you have someone assisting you).

The number one cause of decal failure is due to the window not being properly cleaned. Make sure you thoroughly clean the window with a non-residue, oil-free and ammonia-free glass cleaner. If there are stubborn spots, use a small amount of denatured alcohol (rubbing alcohol works too). You may also use a razor blade scraper to remove contaminants like tree sap, tar, etc. – just be extremely careful not to scratch your window. All waxes, polishes, ceramic coats, or other window treatments must be thoroughly removed from the surface of the window.

Installation Methods

There are many ways to install vinyl decals, but we have two methods that we have tested and routinely use: the Wet Installation and Dry/Hinge Installation. Determining which method to use will depend on your confidence/experience level and environmental conditions.

Wet Installation

The wet installation takes the longest amount of time to complete (up to 12 hours), but provides you with the ability to reposition and reapply the decal during installation – making it perfect for beginners installing medium to large decals. The temperature, humidity, and amount of application fluid that you use will determine the amount of dry time that is required.

Dry/Hinge Installation

The dry/hinge installation is the fastest method to install medium to large decals (typically 20-60 minutes), but unlike the wet method, you only have one attempt to get it right. Once the decal touches the window surface it cannot be removed without causing permanent damage.

Supplies

We have included an application squeegee with your purchase; however, the wet installation method will require additional tools and supplies, which include:

Application Fluid

The application fluid is a temporary lubricant that allows you to move the decal around or reapply the decal to the window. To create the fluid, you will need 7.5oz of water (we prefer distilled), 0.5 oz of denatured alcohol (rubbing alcohol will also work), and 1/16 Tsp of dish soap. It is best to mix and use the solution in a clean spray bottle.

Glass Cleaner

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

Clean, Lint-Free Paper Towels or Microfiber Cloths

Used to clean the window and soak-up excess application fluid from around the outside of the decal during installation.

Denatured Alcohol (Rubbing Alcohol)

Used to clean stubborn contaminants from the window surface before installation.

Masking Tape

Used to help hold the decal in various places during installation. Any generic masking tape will work.

Scissors/Razor Blade

Used to trim excess release liner/transfer tape from around the outside edge of the decal (if desired).

Assistant

Someone who can help you hold the decal and/or grab supplies during installation.

Preparation

We recommend starting the wet installation method in the late-evening, out of direct sunlight, and allowing the decal to dry overnight prior to removing the transfer tape. If you are performing the installation outside, check the weather to ensure that there is no chance of rain, snow, or high-winds the day of and day after you plan to complete the installation.

The ideal air and window surface temperature is between 60°F and 80°F. Temperatures above 80°F may cause the adhesive to become incredibly tacky and can warp the transfer tape and vinyl material. Temperatures below 60°F can weaken the adhesive coatings, causing the decal to not adhere to the window.

Drying times will vary widely, but typically take 2-12 hours. The humidity level, combined with the air temperature, will determine the drying time required. If the humidity is high, dry times will be longer.

If you are completing the installation outside, only work on one decal at a time. Leave any other decals inside a climate-controlled area, out of direct sunlight. Leaving the decal exposed to low/high temperatures or direct sunlight may cause the transfer tape and/or vinyl material to delaminate and/or warp.

Installation

If you purchased a set of decals (driver and passenger side), follow these steps individually for each decal:

Step 1

Un-box and unroll the decal inside a climate-controlled area and lay it face-up on a smooth, flat, clean surface. Using the squeegee at a 45° angle with moderate pressure, start in the center of the decal and squeegee towards the outside edges of the decal. This will help re-adhere any areas of the transfer tape that may have become delaminated from the decal.

Step 2

Bring the decal to the vehicle and slowly begin peeling the transfer tape away from the release liner – you can do this on a table next to the vehicle or use the side of the vehicle. The decal should remain attached to the transfer tape and release from the release liner. If you come to a section or piece of the decal that remains on the release liner, stop peeling. Carefully roll the transfer tape back over that area and use the squeegee to re-adhere the section/piece. Continue removing the transfer tape with the decal attached until the release liner is completely separated.

Be very careful not to touch the adhesive side of the vinyl decal to anything.

Step 3

Mist the adhesive side of the decal with the application fluid, as well as the window surface. You want a very fine, even mist – don't flood the decal or window with the 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 – keeping in mind that it has been designed with a 1/8" offset from the outside edge of the

window. In other words, the decal is 1/8" smaller than the actual window. Some decals come with installation guides (1/8" vinyl lines that follow the shape of the window), which will be removed after installation.

Step 4

Once you have the decal positioned where you want it, use the squeegee at a 45° angle starting in the center of the decal and begin pushing the fluid towards the outside edges. Once you've gone over the decal once with the squeegee, use a clean, lint-free paper towel to soak-up excess fluid from around the outside edge of the transfer tape. Continue using the squeegee with moderate pressure to force as much fluid as possible out from under the decal/transfer tape. The more fluid you can get out, the faster the decal will dry – but keep in mind that you are not going to get all of the fluid out with the squeegee.

Step 5

For the best results, allow the decal to dry overnight with the transfer tape still applied. Dry times can vary widely depending on the temperature and humidity. It can take up to 12 hours for your decal to dry before you can remove the transfer tape.

Step 6

Once you've allowed the decal to dry, begin slowly and gently removing the transfer tape from the decal. If the decal remains adhered to the transfer tape, you may need to allow more time for the decal to dry. If the decal remains adhered to the window, continue slowly removing the transfer tape. If there is a section or piece of the decal that remains on the transfer tape, slowly roll the transfer tape back over the section/piece and use the squeegee to adhere it to the window. Continue this process until the transfer tape is completely removed.

Step 7

Using a clean, lint-free paper towel, soak-up any remaining moisture around the decal. Allow the decal to continue drying for at least 72 hours before washing your vehicle or cleaning on and/or immediately around the decal.

Your installation is now complete.

If your decal has air bubbles smaller than 1/4", don't worry. These will dissipate on their own over a few weeks. If you have air bubbles larger than 1/4", use a pin head to poke a very small hole in the center of the bubble and work the air out.

Installation Insurance

All PrezisionCut® and TrimFit® decals include our 30-Day Installation Insurance.

For a period of thirty (30) days from the original purchase date we will offer a reduced cost, one-time replacement decal for each PrezisionCut® or TrimFit® decal purchased. The replacement decal must be an exact replacement of the original decal purchased – we will not substitute a different design and/or material. Pricing is determined at the sole discretion of Acorn Graphics and is based on material, labor and packaging costs. Lead times may vary depending on our current workload; however, we will make every reasonable effort to process and ship

the replacement decal as quickly as possible. Claims filed after the thirty (30) day period will not be accepted.

We do not offer any warranties, expressed or implied, on our vinyl products at this time.

To file a claim, please visit www.acorngfx.com/claims.

Additional Support & Feedback

We'd like to sincerely thank you for supporting our small business. It truly means so much to us that you love our designs and craftsmanship. Please feel free to reach out at anytime by email or phone if you have questions or concerns regarding your new decal.

If you are dissatisfied with our products or service, please let us know. We'd love to have the opportunity to resolve any issues you may have.

Please consider leaving us a review, tagging us in your social media posts, and following and liking us on Facebook and Instagram – @acorngfx.