

# Application Guide

## ViziPrint® Illuminate



Interior & Exterior



Long Term Durability



2D Surfaces



Tools Required



Wet or Dry Application



Easy Application

Read the following instructions prior to application. ViziPrint Illuminate is a high quality, translucent matte PET film that uses a mechanical bond to adhere graphics to glass and other smooth, flat surfaces. Drytac recommend the following guidelines are carefully read and followed to ensure a successful application. The end user / applicator is responsible for ensuring the film's suitability for the intended application. Always make time to test a printed sample on the intended surface prior to full production and installation.

### Required Tools

- IR thermometer to measure temperature
- Lint-free cloths for substrate cleaning
- Cleaning solution or wipes for substrate cleaning
- Window scraper for cleaning
- Tape measure for positioning
- Masking tape for positioning
- Soft edge squeegee for applying the graphic
- Spray Bottle for wet application
- Paper towels for wet application
- Sharp knife for trimming excess

### Types of Surfaces

The type of surface will have an impact on the adhesive bond, it is critical to understand the nature of the surface in order to avoid graphic failure or removal issues. ViziPrint Illuminate is only recommended for smooth, flat surfaces.

#### Surfaces Recommended for Application:

- Glass
- Metal such as aluminium and stainless steel
- Laminated Surfaces such as Melamine
- Certain Plastics such as acrylic, polycarbonate and PVC

#### Surfaces Not Recommended for Application

- Textured surfaces will impact adhesion by reducing the contact surface area for the adhesive.
- "Easy Clean" or "Self Cleaning" glass have treatments or coatings that can reduce adhesion.

### Surface Preparation

The substrate to which the graphic films are applied must be smooth, clean and dry. Check the surface is in good condition prior to installation.

#### Prepare the surface for graphic application with the following guidelines:

- The surface where the graphic is to be applied to must be clean and free of any dust or dirt particles.
- Use a lint-free cloth to remove dust and other loose contaminants, any small amount of debris will not allow to the proprietary adhesive technology to flow out properly and may cause small air pockets in the graphic.
- *Tip: Use a window scraper and water to remove any stubborn debris and dirt.*
- Clean away grease, glue or other residues with an appropriate surface cleaner such as IPA - Isopropyl alcohol.
- Allow the surface to fully dry after cleaning.



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### Graphic Preparation

Prior to application or lamination, prints must be sufficiently dried in order to prevent any negative effects on film or adhesion properties. In general, at least 24 hours (UV/latex inks) or 48 hours (eco-/mild solvent) of dry time should be sufficient, please refer to ink and machine manufactures guidelines.

When drying, the material should not be tightly wound on a core. The material should dry while loosely wound on a core or hanging as sheets in racks so the solvents can evaporate. Properly dried material is a must in order to benefit from each film's specific properties.

When laminating, it is very important to monitor temperature and tension / pressure settings. Excessive heat or tension can cause the film to stretch and may result in shrinkage or curl issues. For specific information on laminating films, please refer to the relevant product data sheet.

*Tip: Not all inks are water resistant. Test print water resistance prior to final job install. If inks do not withstand wet installation, there are two options. Overlaminates the graphic or install using dry application method.*

### Graphic Application - Dry Method

This method is best suited for smaller decals and panels.

- Before installation, use an IR thermometer to measure surface temperature and check against the minimum application temperature found on the product's data sheet.
- Avoid bending or distorting the graphic when handling to avoid marks or creases.
- Use measuring tools and masking tape to mark and confirm the area for application.
- When multiple panels are intended, butt or edge to edge joins are recommended.
- With the graphic upside down on a flat surface, peel back the release liner approximately 10cm.
- Fold the liner firmly to give a strip of exposed adhesive.
- Position the graphic and press the adhesive onto the surface. Take care the first panel is straight to avoid misaligned graphics.
- Beginning from the top edge and working horizontally, use the squeegee with firm, overlapping strokes to apply the graphic. *Tip: Move from the centre outwards to the edges to avoid trapped air.*
- Continue to remove the liner and apply the graphic in approximately 20cm instalments.
- Apply enough pressure to give a good bond between the adhesive and the substrate.
- Do not allow creases or bubbles to form.
- Go over the whole graphic and check there are no pockets of trapped air. If these cannot be squeezed out, a sharp knife can be used to create a tiny hole and allow the bubble to be pushed flat.
- Give edges an additional squeegee to ensure good adhesion and avoid lifting.



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## Graphic Application - Wet

This method is best suited for larger installations and multi panel graphics.

- Before installation, use an IR thermometer to measure surface temperature and check against the minimum application temperature found on the product's data sheet.
- Avoid bending or distorting the graphic when handling to avoid marks or creases.
- For the application fluid - distilled water is recommended.
- Thoroughly soak the surface where the graphic is to be placed with the application fluid.
- If the graphics allows, place it against the solution-soaked surface with the release liner facing you. The wet surface will hold the graphic in place.
- *Tip: Use pressure sensitive tape to assist with removing the release liner from the graphic. Place one piece on the upper corner of the graphic and a second on the same corner on the release liner. Gently pull the pieces of tape apart to separate the graphic from the release liner.*
- Gradually pull the release liner away from the graphic. Spray the adhesive side of the graphic with the application fluid. Continue pulling down on the release liner and wetting the adhesive side until the liner is completely removed.
- To apply the graphic, hold it at the uppermost corners and place the adhesive coated side to the surface. Keep the graphic away from the floor or other areas where dirt/dust particles may be picked up.
- *Tip: Once removed, the release liner can be reused to mask over the printed graphic to prevent scratching during installation.*
- The application fluid acts as a lubricant, making the installation surface slippery. Slide the graphic to the desired location. If necessary, lift the graphic to remove large bubbles or wrinkles. To allow ease of movement for the squeegee, spray the graphic with the application fluid.
- Starting in the center of the surface, squeegee once to the right edge. Go back to the centre and squeegee across to the left edge. Squeegee the surface in straight, smooth strokes, working from the center out to the edges until all excess application fluid has been removed from under the graphic and it lays flat.
- *Tip: Use firm pressure to remove as much application fluid as possible from underneath the graphic. The squeegee will not float across a dry surface so it is important to re-apply the solution as needed.*
- Repeat the squeegee operation as described above, to ensure good contact between the adhesive and the surface.
- Use paper towels to gently wipe around the edges of the graphic to absorb excess water. This will prevent the application fluid from re-entering between the surface and the graphic. This is especially important when applying outside.
- After the graphic is in place and the water is removed, the film can be trimmed. With a sharp blade and an edge guide, begin trimming the sides and bottom areas before the top, so the trimmed film will not interfere with the cutting.





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## Graphic Removal

ViziPrint Illuminate is designed to remove cleanly and easily from various surfaces, removability may vary depending on the substrate and how it was prepared. Due to the wide variety of surface types and finishes, Drytac does not warrant against damage caused by graphic removal.

- To begin removal, pull the graphic away from the top edge at an approximately 120° angle. A knife may be required to lift away the edge.
- Peel the graphic away slowly and continuously, maintaining the 120° angle, until it is removed.
- Do not use chemicals to aid removal, if the bond is too strong then a heat gun can be used to make removal easier.
- The substrate below the graphic may have changed in appearance. This may happen due to improper cleaning prior to application, exposure to heat and light, or adhesive residue.
- *Tip: If any adhesive residue is left after removal isopropyl alcohol can be used to remove remaining residue. Test a small area to make sure that the isopropyl alcohol has no lasting effect on the surface.*

These instructions are designed to help ensure success across a broad range of applications. Depending on the size and complexity of the application, a specific level of expertise may be required. A more experienced applicator/installer may be needed for larger and more complicated graphics whereas a less experienced applicator/installer may be better suited for applying smaller poster-sized graphics. Large multi-panel graphics should be left to an experienced applicator/installer.

**For more information, performance and warranty guidelines please contact your local Drytac office.**

**Please Note:** Please refer to the TDS for more technical information. The technical information, recommendations and other statements contained in this document are based upon testing and experience Drytac believes to be reliable, but the accuracy and or completeness is not guaranteed. Drytac recommends a small test be performed to determine suitability beforehand. This document does not constitute a warranty of any kind.

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