

# Application Guide

## Polar® Grip

### For Smooth Surfaces



Long Term  
Durability



Tools  
Required



Wet / Dry  
Application



Moderate  
Application

Read the following instructions prior to application. 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

- Application squeegee for applying the graphic
- Soft cloth for decal cleaning

#### 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. Heat is not necessary for application.

#### Surfaces Recommended for Application:

- Aluminium Composite Panels
- Vehicle livery
- Metal
- Glass
- Painted Walls
- High energy plastic
- Low energy surfaces

#### Surface Preparation

The surface to which the decals are applied must be clean and dry. Check the surface is in good condition and does not have defects such as cracks, chips or other damage.

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

- Loose contaminants such as dirt, dust and debris will reduce adhesion. To avoid premature failure use a stiff brush to clean the surface.
- *Tip: If the surface is oily use a suitable degreaser or cleaner and a power washer and allow the surface to dry for 48 hours or to the manufacturer's guidelines.*
- *Tip: Deep recesses, dirt or broken up surface do not provide an adequate surface that the adhesive can bond to.*
- Test a small sample prior to installation to ensure ideal adhesion and graphic outcome. Let dwell for 2-3 days.



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#### Printing & Layout Recommendation

- When doing multi panel graphics use a overlaps at least 10mm or 13/16"
- Strategically align the joins along areas where alignment is less critical, such as between lettering to make installation easier.
- Prior to application or cutting, 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) solvent of dry time should be sufficient, please refer to ink and machine manufacturer's 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.

#### Graphic Application

- Using the hinge method, peel the release liner about 10cm or 4in exposing the adhesive and fold back release liner.
- Line up the decal in the desired location.
- 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 or 8in instalments.
- Apply enough pressure to give a good bond between the adhesive and the substrate.
- Go over the whole graphic and check there are no pockets of trapped air.
- *Tip: If bubbles appear use a sharp blade to pin prick the media to release the trapped air and firmly using the squeegee to smooth out the graphic.*
- Give edges an additional squeegee to ensure good adhesion and avoid lifting.
- Open areas such as doorways, inside/outside corners, and high traffic areas are at higher risk of damage. Trim the graphic 5mm or 3/16in from the edges in order to minimise the risk of damage and lifting. .
- *Tip: Avoid installing the media over deep recesses, as this can be punctured or torn.*



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#### Cleaning Instructions

- Do not scrub or polish the graphic or its surrounding area for 24 hours after the graphic application.
- Clean with a soft cloth and water or mild detergent when the graphic shows signs of dirt.
- Be sure to take care with exposed edges; chemicals and liquids can detrimentally affect adhesives if given the opportunity to ingress. Reduced adhesion could result in the graphic lifting and cause a trip hazard.

#### Graphic Removal

Polar Grip is not designed to be removable and is intended to give a permanent bond to various surfaces. Upon removal of Polar Grip, damage may occur to the surface such as adhesive residue. Due to the wide variety of surface types and finishes, Drytac does not warrant against damage caused by graphic removal.

- To begin removal, carefully 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.
- The substrate below the graphic may have changed in appearance. This may happen due to improper cleaning prior to application, paint quality, exposure to heat and light, migratory additives, weathering or adhesive residue.
- Do not use chemicals to aid removal.
- *Tip: If any adhesive residue is left after removal, isopropyl alcohol can be used to remove the remaining residue. Test a small area to make sure the isopropyl alcohol has no lasting effect on the surface.*

#### Graphic Durability

- Interior & Exterior: Up to 7 year with matched overlaminates
- Polar Premium holds multiple ratings & certifications, please see [drytac.com](http://drytac.com) for more information.

This document provides information on how to apply vinyl graphic. 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.

**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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