

Application Guide

Polar Grip®



Lamination Required for Slip-Rated Floor Decals



Short Term Durability



Tools Required



Dry Application



Moderate Application

For Floor Decals

Read the following instructions prior to application. Polar Grip is a polymeric PVC film coated with an aggressive high tack adhesive, suited for applications where flexibility and strong adhesion are required. Drytac recommends the following guidelines to be 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

- Brush for surface preparation
- Masking tape for positioning
- Soft edge squeegee for applying the graphic
- Heat gun for conforming the graphic into surface texture
- Application roller 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 to smooth surfaces, however on rough surfaces it is required to ensure successful application.

Surfaces Recommended for Application without heat*:

- Floor tiles
- Laminate flooring
- Short pile carpet
- Sealed wood
- Sealed and untreated concrete
- Waxed vinyl
- Marble
- Ceramic tiles

Surfaces Recommended for Application with heat*:

- Rough Concrete
- Smooth Concrete
- Stone

Surface Preparation

The surface to which the floor 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:

- Brush the surface with a stiff brush to remove dust or dirt. If dirt persists, use a de-greaser cleaner and allow the surface to dry for 48 hours. The surface must be dry prior to application.
- Test a small sample prior to installation to insure ideal adhesion and graphic outcome. Let dwell for 2-3 days.

*Always make time to test a printed sample on the intended surface prior to full production and installation.



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Floor Decal 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 so the solvents can evaporate. 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.

Floor Decal Application without Heat

- Peel back the release liner about 10cm/4in exposing the adhesive.
- Line up the decal in the desired location and stick firmly using a squeegee.
- 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/8in 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.

Floor Decal Application with Heat

- Peel back the release liner about 10cm/4in exposing the adhesive.
- Line up the decal in the desired location and stick firmly using a squeegee.
- 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/8in instalments.
- Apply enough pressure to give a good bond between the adhesive and the substrate.
- Do not allow creases or bubbles to form. *Tip: If creases occur gentle heating will remove them.*
- 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.
- Use a heat gun set to around 500 to 550°C, focus on small areas moving from left or right.
- Keep the heat gun close to the graphic to ensure effective heating but avoid contact.
- Use the roller to firmly press the graphic into the surface.
- Take care to avoid local overheating which may cause damage to the film.



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Cleaning Instructions

- Clean with a soft cloth and water or mild detergent when floor decal shows signs of dirt.

Decal Removal

Polar Grip is not designed to be removable and is intended to give a permanent bond to various substrates. Upon removal of Polar Grip, damage may occur to the surface such as adhesive residue or other substrate damage.

- 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.
- A heat gun can be used to make removal easier. Be careful to not overheat as this will cause face film to become too soft and stretchy, and will hinder the removal process. Once warmed up, Polar Grip will be easier to peel away.
- Due to the nature of the adhesive used in Polar Grip, it may leave residue when removed. If this is the case, any adhesive can be removed by using an acetone based adhesive remover, a citrus based adhesive remover or Isopropanol. It is good practice to then remove any residue left by any adhesive removers by finishing off the whole process by applying Isopropanol. This is particularly important if another graphic is to be applied back on to the same surface.

Decal Durability

- Interior & Exterior Floors: Up to 12 months. Dependant upon foot-traffic and proper installation.

Recommendations

- Drytac recommends the decal to have rounded edges or simplistic cut/design. This will help reduce edge lifting. If the edges lift at all, the decal must be removed or replaced immediately.
- Please note that Polar Grip is not slip rated. Polar Grip must be paired with a slip rated overlamine. Please visit www.drytac.com or contact your Drytac representative for an overlamine recommendation for your specific application.

This document provides information on how to apply floor decals. 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

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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