

Application Guide

Polar[®] Street FX

For Floor Graphics



Slip-Rated Single Part
Floor Graphics Solution



Medium Term
Durability



Tools
Required



Dry
Application



Moderate
Application

Read the following instructions prior to application. Polar Street FX is designed for durable, indoor and outdoor non-slip floor graphics without the need for lamination. 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.

Printing, Cutting & Layout Recommendation

Important Note: Prior to loading the media onto the printer ensure the end of the rolls are not damaged or dented. Load the printer in accordance to the machine manufacturer's guidelines, make sure the media clamps/guides are in the correct position. Ensure printhead height is set to its highest setting and the media is loaded on to the take up unit and lays flat on the platen. Unattended printing is not recommended. Please follow all machine manufacturer's guidelines in regards to blade recommendations and cutting specifications. Drytac does not warrant against any damage to the printer/cutter while loading, printing or cutting Polar Street FX.

- UV and Latex inks offer the greatest durability for floor applications.
- Due to the variance of (eco) solvent inks it is recommended scuff resistance is tested prior to installation.
- Graphics should have a sufficient non-printed border and all corners should be rounded.
- When doing multi panel graphics use a butt join. Butt joins are graphic panels applied without overlaps.
- Strategically align the joins along areas where alignment is less critical, such as between lettering to make installation easier.
- Drytac advises a 3mm or 1/8" non-printed border.
- 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.



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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 necessary for application outdoors.

Surfaces Recommended for Application:

- Concrete / Paving Slabs
- Asphalt / Tarmac
- Stone
- Marble
- Ceramic Tiles
- Brick

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:

- Loose contaminants such as dirt, gravel and sand will reduce adhesion. To avoid premature failure use a stiff brush to clean the surface.
- Use a heat gun or blow torch to thoroughly dry the application area and to evaporate any surface moisture.
- Test a small sample prior to installation to ensure ideal adhesion and graphic outcome. Let dwell for 2-3 days.
- *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, sand or broken up concrete / asphalt do not provide an adequate surface that the adhesive can bond to.*



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Floor Graphic Application

Polar Street FX is an aluminium media and should not be treated in the same way as traditional PVC vinyl. We highly recommend that you test out the installation process before using on a live job to ensure that you get the best results.

When applying outdoors, it is important to consider the ambient air temperature, relative humidity, night temperature and exposure to direct and warm sunlight. A surface may appear dry but can still hold moisture. If in doubt, heat the surface prior to installation to help with the evaporation of moisture.

1. Check that the surface is suitable for heating.
2. Thoroughly dry the application surface with a heat gun or blow torch.
3. Allow the ground to cool. It should not be too hot to touch.
4. Peel the release liner about 10cm/4in exposing the adhesive and fold back release liner.
5. Line up the decal in the desired location.
6. Beginning from the top edge smooth hands over the graphics from the centre outwards.
7. Gradually pull down the release liner while applying even pressure across the decal.
8. Continue to remove the liner and apply the graphic in approximately 20cm/8in instalments.

Tip: The adhesive is pressure activated. Use a firm application roller to ensure good adhesion to the ground.

9. Go over the whole graphic with a heat gun to help promote adhesion.
10. Once cooled, firmly roll over the edges several times with a firm application roller to ensure good adhesion.

Tip: Avoid installing the media over deep recesses, as this can be punctured or torn.

Tip: If the grout or brick joins are deep, cut the graphic in between the recess, remove the excess and firmly press the edges down.



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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 brush and water or mild detergent when the floor 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 Street FX is not designed to be removable and is intended to give a permanent bond to various surfaces. Upon removal of Polar Street FX, 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 maybe 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 or a stiff brush 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.*

Floor Graphic Durability

- Interior & Exterior Floors: Up to 12 months. Dependant upon foot-traffic and proper installation.
- Polar Street FX holds multiple slip rating & certifications, please see drytac.com for more information.

This document provides information on how to apply floor 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.

*Important Notice - if installed to carpet, the carpet installation surface must be short pile or tightly woven, minimal texture with a limited cushion. The carpet should be clean and dry prior to application. Due to the huge variance of carpet surfaces, materials and types along with pre and post chemical treatments, a test sample is mandatory prior to production and installation. It is important that all printer and ink manufacturer guidelines are followed. The Drytac limited warranty only covers for material defect, no returns or consequential losses will be accepted.

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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