

R Tape Vinylefx™ Special Effects Vinyl Films are exceptionally suited for **general purpose signage applications**. Both the **Outdoor Durable Series** and the **Decorative Series** of films resist most marring and staining, *and print, cut, weed and handle just like intermediate vinyl!*

Vinylefx™ Decorative Series provides indefinite indoor life and a few months exterior life (for short term marketing actions) Use of a UV protective clear coat or PSA overlaminating film typically extends outdoor durability. However, **Vinylefx™ Decorative Series products are not warranted for exterior applications**

Vinylefx™ Outdoor Durable Series provides up to 5 years exterior life depending on environmental conditions, installation procedures, and product suitability to the intended application. Durability may vary. **Edge sealing is necessary for applications subject to demanding conditions, such as exposure to drastic weather or climate, marine or winter craft installations, etc.** Edge Sealing and applying a UV clear coat, or using a PSA UV overlaminating film provides added protection and enhances durability.

CUTTING INSTRUCTIONS & TIPS

Sign Plotters

- Use a sharp standard blade at slightly slower cutting speeds. Optimal cutting pressures vary depending on plotter manufacturers. Do a test cut. Cutting pressure is one step up to intermediate vinyl.

Thermal Die

- Thermal die cut at heat settings between 146° and 150°C at dwell times between ¼ and ½ second.
- Thermal die cut decals have slightly raised edges, which are prone to edge lifting. **Edge sealing will provide additional protection.**

Eco-Solvent and Solvent Ink Jet Printers

- Contour cutting eco-solvent or solvent based images and logo's: see Printing Instructions & Tips - Contour cutting Eco-Solvent & Solvent printed graphics

PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS & TIPS

- All Vinylefx™ patterns are printable using:
 - Solvent Ink Jet Printers
 - Eco-Solvent Ink Jet Printers
 - Thermal Transfer Systems
 - UV Screen Print Inks
 - Flexographic Printers
 - Vinylefx™ can also be embossed and domed!
- Waterbased inks will not adhere properly.
- **Test Don't Guess.** Always test the vinyl with the ink system for compatibility prior to production!
- **Printer Profile Setting: White Intermediate High Gloss Vinyl at Lower Temperature Settings (35-40°C).** Settings may vary from one printer and/or ink system to another.
- **Humidity and temperature control are critical! Make sure the vinyl is at room temperature of 21°C prior to printing.** Colder temperatures could extend ink curing time. Refer to ink manufacturer specifications prior to premasking, overlaminating and installing.
- Wiping down Vinylefx™ with a lightly moistened towel prior to printing helps remove dust and other contaminants.

Printer Temperature Settings

- Use lower heat settings (35-40°C) to help prevent tunneling and edge curling. Using high temperatures during the heating process to cure inks can cause Vinylefx™ films to expand and contract on the release liner.
- If using UV curing lamps, reduce the heat level and increase belt speed if the temperature inside the reactor is over 65°C. UV lamps emit intense heat, which can distort and shrink Vinylefx™ films. Measure heat inside the curing unit with heat tabs or a thermal gun.

Contour cutting Eco-Solvent & Solvent printed graphics

- Contour cutting your printed image: please leave approximately a 6mm border to minimize shrinking. (The size of the border can be increased or decreased based on the image size and ink saturation. Do a test.) **Do not cut into printed image.** Heavy concentrations of ink, especially eco-solvent inks, will also contribute to shrinking and curling of the vinyl.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS & TIPS

- Vinylefx™ films are suitable for general purpose signage applications on **CLEAN, SMOOTH, NON-POROUS, FLAT, VERTICAL SURFACES.**
- **If the application surface has seams (such as doors on a vehicle), you must cut the vinyl along these seams.** After cutting the film, use the edge of your squeegee to tuck the vinyl into the panel seam. **Vinylefx™ will not conform well around compound curves or rivets.**
- **Some substrates are problematic and could cause adhesion problems.** For information on special adhesive systems designed for these unique applications, call R Tape Customer Service. Please note the following about substrates:
 - Vinylefx™ will not adhere well to untreated low-energy surfaces, such as polyethylene and polypropylene.
 - Some clear coats and automotive paints contain additives to repel dirt, grime, graffiti, etc., which also cause adhesion problems.
 - Vinylefx™ and other metallized films (reflectives and polyesters), are not recommended for application to untreated metal surfaces. Dissimilarity of metals can result in galvanic corrosion.
 - **Know your paint system.** Each paint formulation is different. Some contain additives like wax and silicone, which can also cause adhesion problems.
 - **Make sure paint system is fully cured.** If not, outgassing will occur and cause bubbles underneath the vinyl. Follow the paint manufacturer's instructions for curing time.
 - **When applying Vinylefx™ to another vinyl, a premium cast vinyl is recommended.** The plasticizers in many intermediate vinyls could cause bubbles and adhesion problems later.
- **Clean all substrates prior to application.** If the surface is not cleaned properly, the vinyl will not stick.
- **Apply graphics at temperatures of 21°C or above** for optimal results. Pressure sensitive vinyl may resist sticking immediately to very cold surfaces.
- Vinylefx has real metal on the back of the vinyl, so Do not apply wet ! Vinylefx must be applied dry. Wet applications will and do oxidate Vinylefx !
- Edge seal exterior graphics (Vinylefx SealiT pen) to enhance durability and avoid oxidation of Vinylefx
- Demanding outdoor applications such as (printed) long term fleet graphics and those exposed to heavy handling or extreme conditions must be clear coated (with an automotive clear coat) or at least overlaminated (with a PSA UV overlaminating film)
- **Vinylefx™ graphics should be washed with a mild detergent and soft cloth.** Strong cleaning chemicals, high pressure washing and hard bristle brushes will cause damage.

USING APPLICATION TAPE

- For plotter cut Vinylefx™ lettering and graphics, use a high tack application tape, such as R Tape ApliTape™ #4075, #4076, #4775, R Tape Conform® #4075RLA, #4076RLA, #4775RLA, or CLEAR CONFORM™ AT42-RLA. A mid tack tape, such as R Tape's Clear Choice® AT-60 works well for medium-sized Vinylefx™ lettering.
- For digitally-printed (eco-solvent or solvent inkjet) and UV screen printed wide format graphics, use a low tack premask, like R Tape **DigiMask™**, series. DigiMask™ products are designed to remove cleanly from the printed image to not damage the print.
- After applying the application tape **turn the graphic over so the application tape is face down**. Peel the liner from the vinyl, rather than pulling the vinyl off the liner.
- Vinylefx™ films handle and can be applied just like intermediate vinyl with dry application. However, since the permanent acrylic adhesive on Vinylefx™ films is not repositionable, the "Hinge Method" installation is a recommended option.
- **Firm squeegee pressure is important to create a bond to the substrate.** Maintaining good squeegee pressure is also critical in forcing air bubbles from under the vinyl.
- Remove the application tape by pulling it against itself at a 180° angle.
- **After removing the application tape**, always resqueegee the entire graphic, especially the edges and overlaps to prevent edge lifting. Resqueegee over a piece of release liner with the silicon (shiny) side down to prevent scratching the Vinylefx™ film. Use a **low-friction sleeve on your squeegee**.

PRODUCT WARRANTY

All R Tape products are subject to continuous quality control throughout the manufacturing process and are warranted to be free from manufacturing defects. R Tape stands behind its products and will replace or credit any defective material. Because R Tape products are used for a variety of applications, the purchaser is responsible for determining the suitability and performance of this product for their specific purpose prior to use, and the purchaser shall assume all risks regarding such use.



PRINTING, CUTTING & INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Featuring "Tips & Tricks"

IMPORTANT QUICK REFERENCE (See Inside For Detailed Instructions)

- Apply only to clean, smooth, non-porous surfaces.
- **DO NOT APPLY VINYLEFX™ FILMS WET.** Only apply dry.
- Vinylefx™ films should be at room temperature prior to printing.
- **ICC PRINTER PROFILE:** White Intermediate High Gloss Vinyl at Low Temperature (35-40°C).
- respect a 6mm border (adjust to graphic size) for contour cutting eco-solvent or solvent inkjet printed images to help prevent edge curl. Butt cutting or cutting into the printed graphic could cause edge failure.
- Use Vinylefx™ Outdoor Durable Series for installations requiring more than six months exterior life.
- Outdoor durability will vary according to climate conditions. Black or dark surfaces can cause premature failure in some applications due to excessive heat. Coating and Edge Sealing with a UV or Automotive Clear, or applying a PSA UV Overlaminating Film can extend durability and is necessary in demanding applications.

TEST DON'T GUESS!



1st Choice for Quality and Value

R Tape Digital Imaging Product Line

