

## Installing Decals which are not Pre-Masked.

*On many large decal sets which are printed in whole or in part you will receive decals that are not pre-masked. Pre-mask (transfer mask) is the semi-transparent overlayment layer used on decals to keep cut letters spaced and to facilitate easy installation. On larger printed / laminated decals we will frequently avoid pre-masking the decals prior to shipping. This is done intentionally.*

First, be assured that **this in no way compromises the quality of the decal, nor will it make the installation more difficult.** Since the laminate layer is actually thicker than pre-mask, these decals are actually thicker and thus easier to work with than standard cut decals which are shipped with pre-mask.

Second, you should handle the installation of these decals as with any other decal, with these few notable exceptions. **You will want to use the felt edged squeegee** provided at time of shipping, or you'll want to cover the edge of a regular squeegee with several layers of smooth duct tape that is carefully applied to the squeegee to maintain the straight edge but also to pad it so that the decals are not scratched during installation. You'll also find that these **decals are generally produced with "air egress" material**; which mean that there are extremely small tunnels in the vinyl adhesive. These tunnels allow air trapped under the decal to be carefully squeegeed out through those small tunnels. Once the adhesive has set the tunnels meld together, but during installation they make it easier to ensure a bubble-free application even on long or wide decals. Once you become familiar with the material you'll find it easy and enjoyable to work with. The last slight difference will be in how you handle the masking tape used for tacking decals in place and positioning them for the final install. Masking tape generally has a fairly aggressive adhesive, which can cause small wrinkles in the vinyl during repeated removals for adjustment. **When using tape tabs and "hinges" always remove the tape from the decal side first, pulling toward the work surface.** Don't pull up the tab from the work surface pulling toward the decal. In that way, you'll avoid wrinkling, stretching, or distorting the edge of the vinyl.

That's it. No other special instructions needed. As with any other installation, work carefully, and give thought to each stage of the process. Don't rush. **When working with large decals which are many feet long or tall, you may want to make the installation a 2 person operation** – especially when working in a windy environment or when working off ladders or scaffolding.

***NOTE: Please see the instruction sheet detailing installation of decals on old painted surfaces. It is very important to prepare any older surface correctly to ensure that new decals will adhere properly. Failure to carefully prepare the surface will cause decal failure or limited life-span.***