

## **SURFACE PREP FOR VINYL APPLICATIONS**

Prior to having a wall mural or window graphics installed, it's important to ensure the surface that will be accepting the vinyl is suitable for such an application.

### **GLASS**

Because it's at, smooth and non-porous, glass generally provides an ideal surface for the application of vinyl. Before installation, you'll want to ensure that the surface is clean and free of any stickers or other debris.

Although It's not a concern if the window is tinted or has a security on the opposite side as the install surface, it is not recommended that any vinyl application be installed directly onto existing tint or other films.

When cleaning glass prior to vinyl installation, use only vinegar and water or glass cleaner - avoid soap and other products that are likely to leave behind a film. If outdoors, having your glass pressure washed is an ideal way to ensure the surface is free of dirt and grime - especially in the corners.

### **WALLS**

You'll want to ensure that your surface is sanded smooth and free of holes or pit marks. If new drywall or unfinished plywood, two coats of paint (after sanding) are necessary prior to the application of a wall mural (see below).

Many paints contain teflon, silicon or anti-fungal / anti-graffiti agents which can all prevent the adhesive from properly bonding to the paint. If you're uncertain what type of paint is on your wall currently, we recommend first applying a 12"x12" test strip to the surface to see how well the adhesive holds over a 2-3 day period.

### **Each of the following items can cause either poor adhesion or damage during film removal:**

- Highly textured paint.
- Moisture behind the drywall, which can cause the drywall paper to release. Watch for walls that back up to cooling systems, water pipes, overhead windows and windows that have been boarded up. These areas are prone to condensation that may not be obvious at the time of installation.
- Dust, dirt or other contaminants on the wall.
- Wallpaper that is not securely bonded to the wall in all areas.
- Freshly painted walls that have not had ample time to cure. Wall graphics tend to bubble and release from the wall while paint is in the curing process.

## **PAINTING PRIOR TO INSTALLATION**

When preparing a wall for the purpose of installing a mural, we recommend applying two coats of a gloss or semi gloss acrylic (not oil based) white paint and allowing it to cure for 7-10 days before installation.

As paint cures it out-gasses. (This is why the smell of fresh paint can linger for several days - dark colour paints tend to take longer to cure and out-gas than white / light coloured paints.) If vinyl is applied to a painted surface before it has completely cured, the out-gassing process will literally push the vinyl away from the wall, resulting in bubbles, curled edges or the adhesive completely releasing from the surface.

When applying the paint, use a 3/8" nap roller cover to reduce stippling.

Avoid heavily tinted paints which have more than 1 oz of tint per gallon of paint. The surfactants and colorants that make up darker paint colors tend to need longer periods to leach or out-gas.

## **PERMITS**

It is the customers responsibility to obtain a permit when necessary.

(In many jurisdictions, only the building owner or registered tenant may apply for a signage permit and not an agent on their behalf.)