

COLD WEATHER APPLICATION REMINDERS

The *colder* the temperatures, the *longer* it takes for everything to occur!

There is no margin for shortcuts! Good application steps must be followed to ensure secure bonding when applying vinyl graphics and striping in cold, wet weather.

Vinyl graphics react differently in temperatures below 50 degrees. Making a radius becomes more difficult, and the bonding process time may double or triple! These obstacles, coupled with new surfaces, which affect cleaning methods and adhesive bonding, make it necessary to use every precaution to ensure a quality vinyl application.

REMEMBER... PRESSURE SENSITIVE ADHESIVES ARE HEAT ACTIVATED, SO GIVE THE ADHESIVE A LITTLE HELP TO START THE BONDING PROCESS.

- * *Store vinyl in heat and climate controlled environments. Do not expose material to temperatures below freezing. Application becomes nearly impossible in this scenario. Garage your work vehicle overnight, and keep your shop area heated where vinyl is stored.*
- * *Store material loosely so cold air is not trapped between products.*
- * *Use a heat gun to warm up the vinyl, both before and after removing application tape, using care not to expose the material to direct blasts from the heat.*
- * *Keep your vehicle running with the heater on if the vinyl is stored in your vehicle and you are working on a customer's lot.*

GET THE SURFACE TEMPERATURE OF THE VEHICLE AS WARM AS POSSIBLE.

- * *The vehicle should be inside if possible to bring the surface temperature to an acceptable level. The higher the temperature, the greater the initial bond.*
- * *Use a heat gun to warm surface of the vehicle, making sure to distribute the heat evenly. Hot spots will cause problems.*

ALWAYS MAKE A CLEAN, DRY SURFACE A PRIORITY.

- * *The application surface must be clean and dry, as in any application. In damp weather, a solution of isopropyl alcohol and water can help eliminate wetness and promote adhesion.*

USE MORE PRESSURE WHEN APPLYING VINYL.

- * *More direct pressure may be needed in applying vinyl products in cold weather. Do not expect the vinyl to react the way it would on a 70 degree day.*
- * *Squeegee a second or third time after removing premask, using a squeegee sleeve or small towel to protect vinyl from scratching.*

ALLOW PROPER BONDING TIME!

- * *It is not advisable to wash the vehicle by hand or in a car wash until the adhesive has had enough time and heat to bond. It could take three days, a week, or if applied on a new car surface, it may be advisable to wait two or three weeks before running through a car wash.*