



## TECHNICAL BULLETIN 6.01

### Care and Maintenance of Vinyl Graphic Products after Application

This bulletin details specific cleaning instructions for vinyl graphic products. Vinyl graphic products damaged by improper cleaning are not covered by vinyl manufactures warranties.

#### CLEANING VINYL GRAPHIC PRODUCTS:

A wet, non-abrasive cleaner of the type suitable for high quality painted surfaces is recommended for use on vinyl graphic products. The cleaner chosen must be:

- Non-abrasive
- Must have a pH value between 3 and 11 (neither strongly acidic or alkaline).
- Free of strong solvents or alcohol.

#### CLEANING SOLVENT AVAILABILITY:

The following cleaning agents have been successfully used for cleaning vinyl graphic products.

MEK (methyl ethyl ketone), toluene, heptane and VM&P naphtha are usually available from chemical houses listed under "Solvents" in the Yellow Pages.

Mineral spirits are generally available in any paint store. Prep Solvent Cleaners are available from automotive supply houses, listed under "Automobile Body Shop Equipment and Supplies" in the Yellow Pages.

#### CLEANING PROCEDURE:

**CAUTION:** When using solvents, follow all manufactures' instructions and review and follow all health and safety information. Refer to container labels and Material Safety Data Sheets for health, safety and handling instructions.

1. Flush the surface with clean water to remove loose dirt particles. A trigger type hose nozzle is convenient for this purpose.
2. Do not wash cold surfaces with cold water. The water temperature should be 70-180°F (21-82°C). Cold water can shock the adhesive and cause it to lose adhesion to the vinyl and substrate, causing delamination of the vinyl from the substrate.
3. When using a pressure washer, hold nozzle at least 12 inches away from and perpendicular to the vinyl graphic. Pressure must not exceed 1200 psi. If these specifications are not followed closely, edge lifting will occur. Do not direct the water stream at a sharp angle into the edge of vinyl graphic. Improperly performed pressure washing will seriously damage vinyl graphic.
4. Wash the marking with a soft brush, rag, or sponge and using a mild liquid detergent and water solution is recommended. Some types of car wash brushes have built-in liquid detergent dispensers. Wash thoroughly from top down. Avoid abrading the surface by unnecessary scrubbing. Once suds have been applied; keep a steady stream of water flowing on the surface to wash away dirt particles.
5. Rinse the surface thoroughly with clean water. Allow to drain dry.

6. If tar, oil, diesel smut or foreign materials remains after completing steps 3 through 5 above, wipe with a rag dampened with kerosene, mineral spirits, heptane, or VM&P naphtha. Do not use other solvents. Wash with detergent and water, and then rinse with clean water.
7. To remove pollen and fungus, wash the surface with a 3 to 5% sodium hypochlorite (full-strength Hilex, Clorox, etc.) solution or detergent and water. Rinse with clean water immediately.

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For technical assistance relating to specific application questions or Sharpline's product line,  
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