OLD GRAPHIC REMOVAL GUIDE

New graphics only last as long as the surface under them. Every bit of old vinyl and adhesive has to come off, and the paint has to be clean, before we install. It works the same on a truck, van, trailer or cart. Here is how to do it, and the tools and products that make it go faster.

STEP BY STEP

1. **Try to peel it.** Warm a section with a heat gun to soften the vinyl and adhesive, then peel it back slowly. Work one section at a time.
2. **Eraser wheel if it won't peel.** If the vinyl is breaking, coming off in small pieces or just not peeling well, switch to the eraser wheel. Use a pneumatic tool with a rubber eraser wheel. Keep the wheel moving and let it do the work. Don't hold it in one spot.
3. **Take off the adhesive.** Spray adhesive remover on the residue and let it sit as long as the label says. Scrape it off with a plastic razor blade, then wipe it clean.
4. **Clean for vinyl.** Degrease, then wipe down with glass cleaner or 70% isopropyl alcohol. Let it dry completely.

> **Never use metal razor blades on the paint, anywhere.** They cut the paint, and the damage shows through the new graphics.

ERASER WHEEL TOOLS

The rubber eraser wheel is the important part, and it works best on air.

- Snap-on Crud Thug removal air tool, with a rubber eraser wheel (Blue-Point)
- Dynabrade NZ1 NitroZip, which comes with an eraser wheel
- Other brands make the same kind of tool.

PLASTIC RAZOR BLADES

Plastic blades in a holder are the safe way to scrape adhesive off paint.

- Any plastic razor blade kit with a holder. They are cheap and easy to find online.
- Swap blades when the edge rounds over.

ADHESIVE REMOVERS

A good adhesive remover cuts removal time a lot. Specialty removers cost more and work better.

Hardware store

- Goo Gone Pro-Power
- Goof Off Pro Strength

Specialty

- 3M Adhesive Remover
- CRC Industrial Adhesive Remover
- Rapid Tac Rapid Remover

Test every remover on a hidden spot first. Goof Off says its Pro Strength remover can damage some automotive paints. Follow the label for dwell time, ventilation, gloves and eye protection.

> **Where to buy:** most of the tools and products in this guide are on Amazon. Search the product name. If you can't find one there, search the name and model online; the Snap-on tool is sold through Snap-on.

FINAL SURFACE PREP

- **Get the grease off.** Remove all grease, oil and hydraulic fluid with a degreaser. Anything with an engine or hydraulics builds it up, heavy equipment especially, and it has to come off completely.
- **Clean where the vinyl tucks.** Open every door and compartment. Clean the edges, seams and corners, so the film can wrap around them and stick.
- **No residue.** Vinyl won't stick to leftover adhesive or remover. Finish with glass cleaner or 70% isopropyl alcohol.
- **Dry and clean on arrival.** The vehicle has to be completely dry and free of dirt when the installer gets there.

> **Why it matters:** if the prep isn't done when the installer arrives, the install has to be rescheduled. That means more fees and a longer timeline. Poor prep also leads to poor adhesion and graphics that fail early.

PARTS TO PULL BEFORE INSTALL DAY

Pull anything that comes off easily and is in the way of the graphics: handles, light bezels, trim, grilles. On trucks, that usually means:

- toolbox door handles
- headlight bezels
- grilles and fender wells on flat-nose cabs
- old, worn or damaged safety stickers. Order new ones from the original manufacturer; they go back on top of the new graphics.

Everything else, we'll talk through with you case by case. Some parts can't come off, and we work around them. When a part comes off easily, we can tuck the edges and seams behind it, where they stay covered and protected, and that helps the graphics last longer.

READY FOR INSTALL?

- ☐ All old vinyl is off.
- ☐ No adhesive or remover residue is left.
- ☐ Grease, oil and hydraulic fluid are gone.
- ☐ Edges, seams, door jambs and compartments are clean.
- ☐ Parts are pulled and old safety stickers are off.
- ☐ The vehicle is completely dry.

Questions while you're working on it? Call us at 983.900.7785.