

## VINYL GRAPHICS REMOVAL

Most vinyl graphic challenges center on application and adhesion. However, there comes a time when your vinyl graphic has outlived its purpose and must be removed.

For short term graphics (1 to 2 years) use **MACal 8900PRO** for cut vinyl applications or use **JT5828R**, **JT5829R** or **JT1858R** for digitally printed graphics. These products have a removable adhesive that is cleanly removable for up to two years.

**MACtac's IMAGin JT5629P and JT5628P** is uniquely designed to cleanly remove for up to five with a heat assist.

Other longer term decals made with permanent adhesive, including 9800Pro, 8300Pro, , JT5929P, JT5829P where the adhesives are designed to tightly adhere for three to eight years, require significantly more work to remove **and** re-clean the surface in preparation for the new graphics. The following steps will lead you through the removal process:

**STEP 1) removing the film:** This means removing the top vinyl layer. Options available include:

**1) CHEMICALS:** There are many products on the market available for just this purpose. Keep in mind they need to penetrate to the adhesive to work so the film must be scored first or you can use a remover designed specifically for vinyl film.

**Caution:** Some of the chemicals may be harmful to the surface on which the graphic is attached therefore we recommend you test first. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for personal protection, ventilation, use and disposal.

**2) HEAT:** The use of a heat gun to soften both the vinyl film and the adhesive underneath is frequently used to peel the graphics off.

**Caution:** Too much heat will damage the surface under the graphic and leave the vinyl brittle, making it even more difficult to remove.

a) Ideally, you need to find a good intermediate temperature and work slowly. Start with low heat and slowly increase until the vinyl is peeling relatively easily.

b) Whenever possible, pull the vinyl from the direction you're removing it. This reduces the angle and increases the amount of adhesive that comes off with the vinyl face.

c) You probably will require a scraper during this step. Scrapers are available that only allow the blade to penetrate to a pre-set depth to help minimize the danger of damaging the surface.

**Caution:** Use care with glass surfaces, especially if they are cold. The heat may cause them to crack or shatter.

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**3) OTHER OPTIONS:** Some new products on the market include ‘Vinyl Erasers’. These are wheels that attach to electric drills and ‘rub’ the vinyl off without harming the surface underneath. These are usually very good tools for small jobs like stripes. Because the ‘Erasers’ wear down fairly rapidly, larger jobs could get expensive.

Unfortunately, no matter which method you employ, this is a time consuming job.

**B) Removal of the remaining adhesive.** Regardless of what method you used in Step A above, there is always some residual adhesive left on the surface that needs to be removed. This is a relatively easy step with a couple of options:

1) Solvents: There are many products on the market that are made for just this purpose. It’s a good idea to saturate any remaining adhesive with the cleaning solution, allow it to soften and then scrape it off with a squeegee or plastic scraper. If you want to use something else, kerosene or other oily solvents (like WD-40) will remove most adhesives. However, extra cleaning will be needed to remove these solvents. **Caution:** Be sure to read and follow the manufacturer’s guidelines for personal protection, ventilation, use and disposal. Some solvents may cause damage to certain surfaces! If unsure contact the manufacturer or test on a small spot first.

2) Powerwash: For smaller jobs or those where most of the adhesive has come off with the vinyl, powerwashing is a simple solution.

Once the entire adhesive residue is gone, be sure to wash the area again to remove any traces of cleaner or adhesive residue prior to applying your next graphic (refer to MACTac’s ‘Surface Preparation’ bulletin for additional information). If you’re not sure if it’s clean enough, wash it one more time. A little extra care here will save problems in the future.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The information given and the recommendations made herein are based on our research and believed to be accurate, but no guarantee of their accuracy or completeness is made. In every case, user shall determine before using any product in full scale production, or in any way, whether such product is usable for user’s intended use for their particular purpose under their own operating conditions. User assumes all risk and liability whatsoever in connection with their use of any product. The products discussed are sold without any warranty as to their merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, or any other warranty, expressed or implied. No representative of ours has any authority to waive or change the forgoing provisions, and no statement or recommendation not contained herein shall have any force or effect unless in an agreement signed by the officers of seller and manufacturer. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to imply the nonexistence of any relevant patents or to constitute a permission, inducement or recommendation to practice any invention covered by any patent without authority from the owner of the patent. The following is made in lieu of all warranties, expressed or implied: Seller’s and manufacturer’s only obligation shall be to replace or credit such quantities of the product proved to be defective at it’s discretion.