

## Cleaning and preparation of application substrates

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### Introduction:

Avery® films can be applied to a wide variety of substrates, provided that they are clean, dry, smooth, non-porous and free from grease, dirt, silicones or other contaminants. Checking a surface for dirt or other contaminants is often very difficult: so we recommend considering every application surface contaminated so that it will always receive the treatment required for a successful application.

### Cleaning methods:

1. Washing with a mild detergent solution, after which the surface should be rinsed and dried with a lint free cloth.
2. Wiping with a solvent-saturated cloth, until all dirt and/or grease has been removed. The solvent should be sufficiently mild not to attack the substrate (eg methylated spirits).

Many commercially available cleaning/degreasing products exist: you should establish the suitability of a product prior to actual use. In addition, the following factors should be considered prior to decal application:

- Bare metals can best be prepared for decal application by cleaning with a detergent solution, followed by solvent cleaning with a (solvent) saturated cloth.
- Car wax and polish residues must be completely removed.
- Paint surfaces must be completely dry and hardened. On most baked paints, decals can be applied immediately after cooling down. Air dried paints and car repair paints require at least one week to ten days to dry out before decals can be applied. Solvent residues in painted substrates which are not completely dry may adversely affect decal adhesion, and can cause excessive shrinkage or blistering.
- Painted substrates which will act as a substrate for self-adhesive decals should be prepared according to the paint manufacturer's instruction. Here, too it is important to avoid solvent retention. Paint system components (primer, filler, toplayer) that are not compatible or that do not adhere properly to each other may cause paint to be lifted when decals are removed.
- Weathered paints or films may have to be treated with a (fine) abrasive pad to remove loose surface particles.
- After cleaning an irregular substrate surface (rivets, corrugations), any retained liquid may be removed by means of a heatgun.
- Damaged surfaces may result in different adhesion levels: serious consideration should be given to repair a damaged surface prior to decal application.

In case of doubt, please contact your local Avery Dennison representative to make sure that the correct procedures are followed.

