

Care and Handling

All Metamark digital media is manufactured and packaged under stringent conditions, to ensure trouble-free printing, and it is important to follow a few basic rules when storing and handling media.

When the media roll is not being used, always store it either vertically, or suspended on the plastic packaging caps provided. If the roll is stored resting on its side, or left on the aluminium rollers on the back of the machine overnight, it can cause pressure marks, or 'media bruising', resulting in colour variations in the print and often confused with other banding problems.

Always keep the roll free from dust and contamination by using the polythene sleeve provided when it is not being used. Do not touch the film itself as oils from the skin will transfer to the media and may show as marks in the print. If the roll does get contaminated, cut off the outside layer before feeding into the machine to avoid this contamination transferring onto the printer.

Keep the roll out of direct sunlight. The roll must be at the correct temperature (+10°C to +30°C) before attempting to print, as the heater settings will not compensate for a roll stored in too cold conditions. Often, a roll will need to be used within hours of being delivered in, so be aware that it may still be cold from overnight storage at the courier company. If media is stored in damp conditions, moisture on the film can cause spots in the print, while moisture within the liner will cause it to ripple as it dries out, causing 'head strike'.

Application of Digital Vinyl

One main difference between application of solvent inkjet printed vinyl and of unprinted computer cut vinyls is that once the media has been printed it will retain some of the solvents from the ink. These excess solvents will soften the media and also weaken the adhesive. As such, it is important to leave the print between 24 and

48 hours before application. Whilst in some instances this may not be practical, it is particularly important when applying to heavily curved surfaces, for vehicle wraps, or onto cold glass.

When performing a 'print and cut', such as creating labels, if the media is cut soon after printing it is possible that it can curl up, due to the solvents within the adhesive. To avoid this, either allow 48 hours before cutting if the cut runs into the ink bleed, or allow a white border around the label.

Before applying any vinyl to a surface always ensure that the surface has been cleaned with isopropyl alcohol. As Metamark vinyls all benefit from a solvent based adhesive, they can be safely and easily applied with a wet application, or using a laminator.

When choosing a self adhesive vinyl, be aware of the difference between a calendared vinyl, which when applied to curved surfaces should be applied unstressed, and a cast vinyl, which will accept gentle warming and stretching to conform to the surface contours. For deep compound curves, cut the film.

Application of Overlaminates

Allow sufficient time for the print to dry before attempting to overlaminate, and ensure that the media and overlaminate are at similar temperatures. Always choose a compatible or matched overlaminate to ensure mutual weathering, avoiding tunnelling or delaminating, by clicking here, or referring to the media page. To avoid tunnelling and delamination, avoid rolling tightly overlaminated prints, particularly when matched laminates are not used.

All Metamark overlaminates have a solvent-based adhesive* to ensure trouble free application whether applying wet or using a laminator, and are pressure sensitive for cold lamination.

Please Note: The above data is given in good faith to provide an indication of the performance of the product. Purchasers should consider the suitability of each product for its intended use and the purchaser assumes all risks in connection with such use. Seller shall not be liable for damages in excess of the purchase price of the product nor for incidental nor consequential loss.