

STORING APPLICATION TAPE

- To protect application tape from ultra-violet light, heat and dirt, store it its original packaging until you are ready to use it. Application tape, when exposed to light, yellows. Even shop lighting can yellow application tape.
- Never store application tape in an excessively hot environment. Prolonged exposure to temperatures above 29°C prematurely ages an adhesive and degrades its performance.
- The maximum shelf life for application tape and pre-mask is 12 months. Old application tape can “block-up” on the roll, the adhesive binds to the facstock’s first surface, making the product difficult, and often impossible to unwind.
- Rotate your tape inventory. The material first entered into stock should be used first.
- Handle rolls of application tape with care — damage to a roll’s ends impairs unwinding the tape. The paper easily tears where it’s damaged.
- Always stack application tape rolls upright. Laying a roll on its side causes a flat spot, which makes unwinding difficult.

TRANSFERRING VINYL GRAPHICS

- After applying the application tape to the vinyl, turn the graphic over so the tape is against your work surface.
- Peel the liner from the back of the graphics, rolling it 180°against itself, rather than trying to pick the graphics off of the liner.
- If the graphics release with difficulty from the release liner, rub the back of the liner against a sharp edge of your work bench. This step helps break the bond between the graphic and the release liner.

FACTORY CUTS ROLLS™

RTape razor cuts all of its application tape rolls — we never bacon slice cut our tape. Each layer of tape is slit perfectly, one layer at a time. There are no adhesive balls, no gapping between layers of tape to dry out the adhesive and no nicked edges which can cause tape tears. Cutting application tape with a log splitter damages the ends of the rolls. The pressure of the cutting blade compresses the edges of the roll causing gapping, as well as fusing one layer of the tape to stick to another.

WET APPLICATION TIPS

Using an application fluid can aid the installation of vinyl films with aggressive adhesive systems. The fluid helps float the graphic onto the surface, to prevent pre-adhesion. For successful wet applications:

- ALWAYS use firm squeegee pressure to force application fluid out from under the applied vinyl graphic.
- NEVER use application fluid if you can install the graphics dry.
- Use the least amount of application fluid to accomplish the task. If the application tape gets too wet, the adhesive can delaminate from the tape. Clean any residual adhesive using a cleaner.
- NEVER use application fluid to apply vinyl to riveted surfaces. Application fluid collects underneath rivet heads, creating a residue that later seeps out. This causes vinyl to tent and eventually crack.
- NEVER use glass cleaners as an application fluid. Some glass cleaners contain silicone, ammonia and other additives that contaminate the adhesive, resulting in failure.
- NEVER apply air-egress vinyls, reflective films or metalized films wet. Air-egress vinyls have micro tunnels embossed in their adhesives, which will trap application fluid, resulting in adhesion failure. Application fluids can promote galvanic corrosion of the metallization layer on reflective films and metalized vinyls.

PRODUCT WARRANTY

All RTape products are subject to continuous quality control throughout the manufacturing process and are under warranty to be free from manufacturing defects. RTape stands behind its products and will replace for credit any defective material.

Because RTape products are used for a variety of applications, the purchaser is responsible for determining the suitability and performance of this product for their specific purpose prior to use, and the purchaser shall assume all risks regarding such use.



APPLICATION TAPE GUIDE

TIPS & TRICKS

RTAPE CORP.

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RESPONSIBLE.
RELIABLE.
RESOURCEFUL.

TYPES OF TAPES

Two grades of paper are used in manufacturing application tapes: a standard weight paper and a premium heavy-weight paper. One key difference between the types of paper is the thickness. Standard weight application tapes are 101 microns thick. Heavyweight premium papers are 127 microns. RTape offers several adhesive-tack levels for each paper grade. In selecting the right tape for the job, the general rule of thumb is:

- For small, computer-cut lettering or general sign work, use a high tack tape, such as 4075RLA or 4076RLA.
- For large to medium-sized lettering and banner applications, use a medium tack tape, such as 4050RLA.
- For large-format digital prints, use a low tack tape, such as 4000 or 4000RLA.

HEAVYWEIGHT PREMIUM GRADE TAPES

Most of what is used in the sign industry is the lighter weight paper. In the large format screen print market, the reverse is true. Most professional decal installers prefer premium grade tapes for the following reasons:

- Heavyweight premium grade application tapes are about 25 microns thicker than the standard grade application tapes. The added thickness makes handling large format graphics easier.
- When working outdoors, a premium application tape is less likely to tear by a sudden gust of wind.
- When the application is done, heavyweight application tapes remove in one piece. Thin standard grade paper tapes tear more easily and often remove in little bits and pieces.
- When applying graphics wet, a heavyweight paper is less likely to fall apart.

APPLICATION TAPES TIPS & TRICKS

- Whether you laminate application tape via hand or a laminator, avoid trapping air bubbles between the vinyl graphics and application tape. Bubbles and wrinkles in the application paper generally result in bubbles and wrinkles in the applied graphics.
- During the lamination process, avoid stretching the application tape, stretched tape usually shrinks and causes the vinyl graphic to curl.
- The best way to apply application tape to graphics is with a laminator. A properly set-up laminator can apply

application tape to graphics with minimal wrinkles and bubbles.

- If the application tape puckers from the surface of the vinyl graphics, you can increase adhesion by applying heat up to 38°C in a hot laminator to avoid bubbles.
- Use a single tape sheet (rather than overlapping pieces) to cover the graphic. Otherwise, a fine line of tiny air bubbles will appear where the tape pieces overlap.
- For screen printed and digitally printed decals, thoroughly “cure” inks and clear coats before applying the tape. Solvents in uncured inks and coatings often cause the decal and tape to adhere to each other, which hinders tape removal once the graphic is applied. The rule of thumb is to wait 24 hours allowing inks to thoroughly dry before clear coating or overlaminating. Then wait 24 hours before applying the application tape and trimming the print.
- After a vinyl graphic has been “taped,” it should be applied shortly thereafter. Prolonged storage can increase the bond between the tape and vinyl, making tape removal difficult following application. This condition worsens if the graphic is stored at elevated temperatures.
- If an application-paper tape isn’t releasing easily following an application, lightly spray the paper with application fluid, wait approximately 30 seconds and then remove it. The application fluid will penetrate the paper facestock and soften the tape’s water based rubber adhesive, causing it to release more easily from the graphic.
- When removing the application tape, carefully pull the tape 180° against itself. To minimize edge lifting, and prevent the squeegee from scratching the graphic, use a squeegee covered with a low-friction sleeve to re-squeegee the entire graphic, especially the edges.

CONFORM® SERIES

Conform® Series with RLA® is the #1 best-selling brand of application tape in the sign market. All Conform® Series, products feature RLA® Release Liner Adhesion, which allow these tapes to stick to slick release liners. With RLA® Conform® application tapes will not tunnel or edge lift, so graphics stay neat and clean, even when they’re rolled.

Product	Description & Applications
4000, 4000RLA	Standard grade paper. Low tack. Surface protection of metal and plastic & premask for large format digital prints.
4050, 4050RLA	Standard grade paper. Medium tack. Medium and large computer-cut and die-cut graphics and vinyl banners.
4075, 4075RLA	Standard grade paper. High tack. Popular choice for most sign shop applications, especially small, medium and large-size computer-cut letters.
4076 4076RLA	Standard grade paper. Slightly higher tack. Excellent for hard-to-transfer vinyls, small and medium-size letters, specialty vinyls and thermal die cuts.
4078RLA	Standard grade paper. Specifically designed for wall graphics. Excellent clean pick up and transfer of signage. With the added benefit of easy release. Sticks and lays flat to the exposed release liner to protect against wrinkling.
4750RLA	Premium grade paper. Medium tack. Superior choice for fleet graphics, large and medium-size computer-cut letters.
4760RLA	Premium grade paper. Excellent for medium size decals, striping and die-cut graphics. Adheres to rough textures of halftone prints and the slick decal surfaces of UV inks and clear coats.
4775RLA	Premium grade paper. High tack. Excellent for smaller graphics and die-cuts. Excellent choice for fleet graphics.
4776RLA	Premium grade paper. Excellent for hard-to-lift vinyls. This tape is used for applications where vinyls require a little extra lifting power.
4885	Premium grade paper. Ultra high tack. Excellent for thermal die cut decals and highly textured window graphics films.
AT60n	Clear application film. Medium tack. Excellent choice for aligning multiple colour overlays.
AT65	Clear application film. High tack. Especially well-suited for transferring small & detailed cut graphics. Works well with vinyl films that have tight release liners.
AT70	Clear application film. Low/Medium tack. Embossed facestock. Excellent for large and medium sized computer-cut letters.
AT75	Clear application film. High tack. Excellent for aligning multiple colour overlays.