

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 (Longer for heavier inkloads) before laminating or cutting. Whilst in some instances this may not be practical, it is particularly important when processing heavily inked prints.

If not fully out-gassed the excess solvents will cause the edges to curl when cutting flush into the print of solid colours and will make the vinyl soft and prone to stretching.

To minimise the problems:

Always allow a minimum of 24-48 hours (Heavier prints require longer) for the solvents to gas off between printing and cutting, or overlaminating. This will require you the use of registration marks to re align the graphic in the cutter.

Use a thicker vinyl if possible. Metamark produces MD-P and MD100 which are 100 micron films and better resist the solvents making the vinyl easier to work with.

Avoid cutting flush into the print if the artwork allows, leaving a 4mm border between then print and cut path.

When applying print and/or cut graphics ensure the surface clean and the temperature is above 10°C.

Digitally printed calendared film should be applied unstressed on flat and slightly curved surfaces.

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