

Avery Dennison® Instructional Bulletin 1.02

Storage, Maintenance and Cleaning of Avery Dennison films

Revision 3

Introduction

Avery Dennison® films should be stored in accordance with this Instructional Bulletin and used before the expiry date. Avery Dennison® films can be maintained with cleaning detergents that are common to the professional maintenance of vehicles and advertising equipment.

Storage

Avery Dennison® material needs to be stored in a controlled environment of 22°C (±3°) and 50% (±5%) relative humidity and free from excessive airborne dust and direct sunlight. The unconverted material and/or converted decals need to be applied within the shelf life specified for the particular product being used. Rolls in the Avery Dennison® shipping carton should be stored horizontally; rolls that have been removed from the shipping carton can be suspended horizontally via a rod or pipe through the roll core or vertically using the OEM roll end cap.

Maintenance

Avery Dennison® material should not be cleaned within the first 48 hours after application. After this initial period it is recommended that graphics should then be maintained on a monthly basis, or potentially more depending on the installation environment. Do not clean graphics excessively as this can cause damage to the surface.

Conventional cleaning of Avery Dennison graphics

Avery Dennison® films may be cleaned using all conventional automotive washing methods. In all cases the prescribed manufacturer recommendations should be followed. Special attention should be given to length of time the graphic is in contact with the detergent. This should not be longer than prescribed recommendations.

Excess detergent should be thoroughly rinsed off. All cleaning agents shall be diluted following the instructions of the cleaning agents or detergent manufacturer. The cleaning solution should not be chemically aggressive: preferably they should range within the mild acid or mild alkaline limits (pH 3-11).

Use of solvents and/or abrasive cleaning agents may damage the graphic and should therefore be avoided.

Cleaning Procedure

1. Check if loose dirt particles cover the graphic: in such circumstances flush with ample water to remove (loose dirt particles may scratch the surface at using brush or sponge). A low pressure hose nozzle is suitable for this job.
2. The (diluted) detergent solution shall be used to wash the graphic with a sponge or mild brush. Do not move solid particles with the sponge or brush: these should be rinsed off with a hose supplying water. Wash from the top down so that the dirtiest part is well exposed to detergent.
3. After all dirt is removed, rinse well so that all detergent residues are removed from the graphic surface.

Avery graphics can be cleaned with high pressure cleaning equipment, provided the following conditions are respected:

- Maximum pressure: 80 bars (1200 psi)
- Maximum water temperature: 70 °C (158° F)
- Minimum nozzle distance: 75 cm (30") (should be maintained between graphics and dispenser nozzle).
- The dispenser nozzle must be aimed face-on to the graphics to be cleaned: not angled.
- The dispenser nozzle shall be adjusted to a $\pm 40^\circ$ angle spray pattern.

Warning: - Sharp angled high pressure jets of water may damage the edges of the graphics and cause delamination

High pressure steam cleaning should be avoided as the extreme heat can interfere with the adhesion on the films.

Most dirt can be removed/washed by the methods mentioned above. However, some contaminants may stick to the graphics surface persistently. Typical stubborn contaminants include diesel oil spills, tar or other road dust (salt, rubber etc). Generally, these require stronger means to remove. Most of these contaminants can be removed, using a cloth soaked in mild solvents such as white spirit and heptane. Persisting contaminants may firstly be removed with a soft, non-damaging scraper, followed by a wipe with a cloth soaked in mild solvents. After the successful removal of such stains, always wash areas with water and detergent.

Stronger cleaning agents such as solvents may damage a (printed) graphic or even the paint surface, we recommend to test in an inconspicuous area of the graphic prior to cleaning the full graphic.

Warranty and Limited Remedy

This instructional bulletin describes a technique. The information contained herein is believed to be reliable, but Avery Dennison makes no warranties, express or implied, including but not limited to any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. To the extent allowed by law, Avery Dennison shall not be liable for any loss or damages, whether direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential, in any way related to the technique of making a graphic regardless of the legal theory asserted.

The above information provides basic information on how to apply pressure-sensitive graphics. The instructions are designed to help ensure success across a broad range of applications. Depending on the size and complexity of applications, a certain amount of expertise is needed.

Professional applicators can be hired to ensure proper application of finished graphics. When mounting graphics in remote geographic areas, professional applicators can offer the added benefit of local service.

Avery Dennison has a vast network of Certified Installers who have been specially trained and certified in accordance with our recommended techniques.

You can review the Certified Installer list here: [Find a Graphics Installer](#)

Consider hiring a professional whenever the application requires:

- Multiple panels to be registered
- Complex surfaces, such as rivet and corrugated trucks
- Harsh environmental conditions (i.e. outdoor applications in high heat climates)
- Remote geographic locations

For further information, contact your local Avery Dennison representative.

