

# *Storage, Handling and Cleaning of Reflective Traffic Sign Sheeting*

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## *Storage and Conditioning*

### **Storage of Sheeting**

Avery Dennison Reflective Sheeting should be used within one year of date of purchase. All guarantees and warranties, expressed or implied, shall become null and void in all respects on materials stored prior to application for periods in excess of one year.

Avery Dennison Reflective Sheeting should be stored in a cool, dry area preferably at 65-75°F. (18.3-29.7°C) and 45-55% relative humidity. If materials are stored in areas separated from the application or converting area, it is advisable to allow time for the material to acclimate prior to use.

### **Rolls**

Store rolls horizontally in the shipping carton or suspended through the core. Do not lay the roll on a hard surface or reflectivity will be affected (dead spot in roll).

### **Sheeted material**

Store sheets flat and allow them to condition 24 hours at the use temperature and humidity prior to printing. The recommended stacking method is face-to-back contact, with a slip-sheet between each face-to-back contact. The liner can be used as a slip sheet placing the siliconized (slippery) side next to the sheeting. Place a sheet of Masonite, plywood, or metal on top of each stack. Keep stacks 4" high or less.

## *Storage of Finished Signs*

Make sure to mark signs with the appropriate manufacturing information so the signs may be tracked at a later date. Allow any finished signs to set 24 hours in the shop before installation.

Under certain conditions, Avery Dennison Reflective sheeting is permeable to moisture penetration, which may lead to deadening of its reflective properties. Many have questioned why a sign cannot become wet in storage when it gets wet after installation. The difference is that the amount of moisture that comes in contact with a sign surface due to rain or dew is nominal and tends to run off or evaporate due to air circulation. It is not recommended to package finished signs in plastic wrapping which may trap moisture during storage or shipping. AVOID trapping moisture against reflective sign surfaces.

Under normal circumstances, it is recommended that the slip-sheet not be removed from the face of the sign until the time of installation in order to avoid possible transfer of the screen printed message. However, if a sign should get wet, it is imperative that any wrapping and slip sheeting be removed immediately from the sign. The sign should then be dried off to avoid permanent damage to the screen printed message and reflective sheeting.

### *Storage, Handling and Cleaning continued...*

Signs manufactured with Avery Dennison reflective sheeting should be stored in the field in a weathertight building or trailer, so that they will not get wet. They should not be left unprotected where they can get wet. When stacking signs, it is recommended to stack one sign against the next with a non-permeable separator (such as a piece of plastic) between each sign. Flat Regulatory and Warning signs should be stored indoors and on edge. **DO NOT lay flat!** Avery Dennison does not recommend the use of banding since it can cause pressure points at the edges of the signs that will be non-reflective. **DO NOT** ship flat signs unsupported in open containers. These signs are subject to scuffing and abrasion due to load shifting. Signs shipped in an open container are also subject to trapped moisture left on the sign surface overnight when all of the signs are not erected during one working day. Signs should always be transported to the installation site in covered trucks in their original shipping cartons.

**DO NOT** store flat signs outside with the packing on the face. Prolonged contact with moisture will damage all reflective sheeting. This can adversely affect reflectivity and the screen printed message.

### *Cleaning Of Signs*

The cleaning solution should be a pH range of 4 to 10 (within mild acid or mild alkaline limits). Use a mild soap or detergent along with warm water and a soft cloth or sponge. The cleaning solution should be non-abrasive and free of strong solvents. If it becomes necessary to remove heavy soil and grease, kerosene, mineral spirits, heptane or V.M. & P naphtha may be used. Avoid all other solvents.

Test the cleaner on a small section or sample of the material before use. Do not use high pressure sprays, and avoid direct sprays at sheeting edges.

Spray or wipe (with a soft cloth or sponge) the cleaning solution over the entire surface of the film to be cleaned (avoid abrading the film surface with unnecessary scrubbing); thoroughly agitate and mix the cleaning solution into the dirt on the film's surface; rinse the entire surface with clean water and let air dry or dab dry being careful not to lift film edges.

*NOTE: The above recommendations and cleaners are intended as a source of information and are given without a guarantee and do not constitute a warranty. Purchasers should independently test cleaning agents and methods, prior to use, to determine their suitability.*

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