



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

TA2109
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JS

GV929 and JT5529BFD Pro Fleet Vinyl Graphic Removal

Most vinyl graphic challenges center on application and adhesion. However, there comes a time when your vinyl graphic has outlived its purpose and must be removed.

MACTac's **GV929 and JT5529BFD Pro** are uniquely designed to remove cleanly for up to five years with some heat assist. Laminated graphics are much easier to remove due to the added strength of the laminating film. Non-laminated or UV clear coated graphics have a weaker overall face strength and may be slightly more difficult to remove as the face may tear more frequently.

STEP 1) Ideal temperature for removing the film:

- 1) The trailer body should be at between **50°F and 110°F** to start.
- 2) If necessary, pull the trailer into a warm area or warm the trailer from the inside out with an area heater.

STEP 2) Removing the film:

- 1) **Too much heat makes removal more difficult.** Over **120°F** may result in the vinyl tearing into small pieces and adhesive transfer. Ideal temperature for removal: **90° - 110°F**.
- 2) Working in a 3' x 3' area or less, warm the film up to the desired temperature.
- 3) Lift one edge and pull slowly and evenly away from the application surface at a 90° or less, angle.
- 4) If corrugations are involved, working parallel to the corrugations, instead of perpendicular makes removal much easier.

Hint: Professionals suggest scoring the vinyl along the corrugations and removing the film in narrow widths, thus reducing the stress on the film and resulting in a nice easy and clean removal.

- 4) Continue working in relatively small areas to best control the heat, making sure not to overheat the films, until all the graphics have been removed.

STEP 3) Removal of any residual adhesive:

- 1) MACTac vinyl films are designed for clean removability when the previous steps are properly followed. Occasionally there may be some small amounts of adhesive left behind. This can be removed with isopropyl alcohol or other chemical products on the market designed just for this purpose.
- 2) Metallic films like gold, silver, Sparkle Metallic and reflective films tear easily and chemical assistance can help.
Hint: If chemicals are desired, MACTac recommends using non-toxic, environmentally safe and biodegradable, *CrystalTek™ Vinyl-Off, Adhesive-Off or Reflective-Off*. (www.crystaltek.us.com)
- 3) If you choose to use other vinyl or adhesive removers use **Caution:** Some of the chemicals may be harmful to the surface on which the graphic is attached, we recommend you test first.
- 4) Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for personal protection, ventilation, use and disposal.

OTHER OPTIONS: Some alternate adhesive removal products on the market include:

- 1) *'Vinyl Erasers'* - These are wheels that attach to electric drills and 'rub' the vinyl off without harming the surface underneath. These are usually very good tools for small jobs like stripes. Because the 'Erasers' wear down fairly rapidly, larger jobs could get expensive.
- 2) *Power washing:* For smaller jobs or those where most of the adhesive has come off with the vinyl, power washing is a simple solution

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STEP 4) Final surface cleaning:

Once the entire adhesive residue is gone, be sure to wash the area again to remove any traces of cleaner or adhesive residue prior to applying your next graphic (refer to MACTac's 'Surface Preparation' bulletin for additional information). If you're not sure if it's clean enough, wash it one more time. A little extra care here will save problems in the future.

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