

## SURFACE PREPARATION:

All surfaces must be thoroughly cleaned before applying your decal. Your vinyl decal can be applied to any clean, smooth and flat surface. Put them on your walls, windows, doors or anywhere you want. However, applying a vinyl decal on a bumpy or textured surface will be a bit more difficult. It can be done if it's applied very carefully using the techniques described in the installation instructions below.

**Please follow the instructions below for specific surface cleaning procedures.**

**Indoor Interior Surfaces (Indoor Walls):** **DO NOT attempt to apply this decal to any freshly painted interior walls.** All freshly painted interior walls should dry for at least 2-3 weeks prior to application of any decal. Vinyl is sensitive to paint fumes emitted from the wall and decal may not adhere properly if applied too soon. Wipe the surface with a lint-free cloth to assure the surface area is clean, smooth and free of dust (as shown in photo #1). You can use mild detergent if necessary, but DO NOT use Windex or any other ammonia based cleaners.

**Plastics and Glass (Mirrors, Sliding Doors, Windows):** Thoroughly wipe surface clean with a window cleaner. Remove any dried matter such as tape or glue with a single edge razor blade. If you are planning to use acrylic, remove the protective liner from the acrylic 24 hours prior to application of any decal. This will allow any air bubbles to dissipate from the acrylic. If this is not observed you may find air bubbles form under your graphic within a couple of days.

**Painted Metals and Base Metals (Car, Trucks, Metal Appliances):** These surfaces may be cleaned with a solvent such as Naphtha, Xylol or Lacquer Thinner. Dry the surface with a lint-free cloth before the solvent evaporates. Freshly painted surfaces should be dry for at least 72 hours prior to applying any vinyl decal.



Photo #1

## INSTALLATION TOOLS:

Tools you need:

- Squeegee or a hard plastic card (such as a credit card).
- Scissors.
- Tape (masking tape or painter's tape work best). Especially useful when applying large decals.
- An extra helper (recommended if your decal is large).

Additional tools that are useful, but not required:

- Pencil.
- Ruler or straight edge (use for "Precise Alignment" steps only).
- Measuring tape (also use for "Precise Alignment" steps only).
- Razor blade (helpful if you need to trim the decal that's flush with the floor or floor trim).
- Heat gun or Blow dryer (only for vinyl decal removal).

## QUICK TIPS:

### Recommended Temperatures:

The temperature of the room and the intended surface should be between 45 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit for best results.

Very high humidity (above 90 percent) may affect the application process.

### The vinyl decal consists of three separate pieces:

- 1) Application Tape (top surface).
- 2) Vinyl Decal (the vinyl decal you can see in between the application tape and wax paper backing).
- 3) Wax Paper Backing (bottom surface).

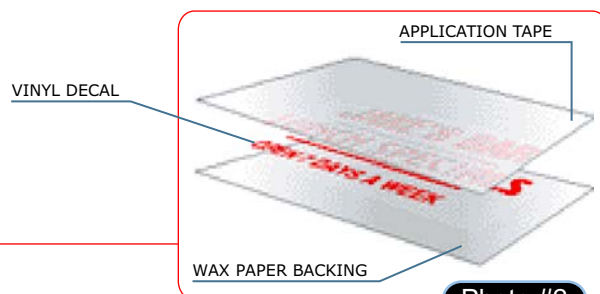


Photo #2

## DECAL PREPARATION:

Your vinyl decal is rolled-up inside the long box you received from us. Please do not use a large knife or any long sharp object to enter the box or you could damage your vinyl decal. We recommend using a small sharp knife or object to open the box. Do not attempt to cut into the box from any where other than the top or bottom or you could damage your decal. Once you've gained access to the box carefully remove your vinyl decal from the box (as shown in photo #3).



Photo #3

Unroll your decal all the way until it lays flat (as shown in photo #4). Placing it in a warm area or setting some books on it will help flatten it. Vinyl decals will expand and get softer when exposed to a warmer environment. Cooler environments make the vinyl decal less flexible, thus it's likely the vinyl will temporarily retain its rolled shape when the environment is colder. This is why the vinyl decal curls back up when you attempt to flatten it. This step isn't critical, but will make it easier to install your vinyl decal.

You can also cut your decals apart with scissors, if necessary.



Photo #4

## DECAL PREPARATION 2:

Use a pair of scissors to cut away the staples on all four corners of your vinyl decal (as shown in photo #5).

These staples are there to prevent the application tape from curling or separating from the wax paper backing when it's rolled up inside the shipping box.



Photo #5

Your vinyl decal will have a beige colored application tape (this looks and feels like masking tape) on the front/top side of the vinyl decal and white paper backing on the back side (Wax Paper Backing). See photo #2 in the step named "QUICK TIPS" on page 1 if you need a visual illustration of each layer of your vinyl decal.

If your decal is not laid out on a smooth flat surface then move it to smooth flat area (a table, hard wood floor, or even a wall) before attempting the next step below. Next you should re-flatten your vinyl decal. With the front/top side of your vinyl decal facing up, firmly rub over the application tape with a squeegee, hard plastic card or credit card (or a similar tool) to assure the vinyl decal properly sticks to the application tape (as shown in photo #6). Later this will aid the process of removing the vinyl decal from the wax paper backing.

Note that this step is not required but is highly recommended before installing your vinyl decal.

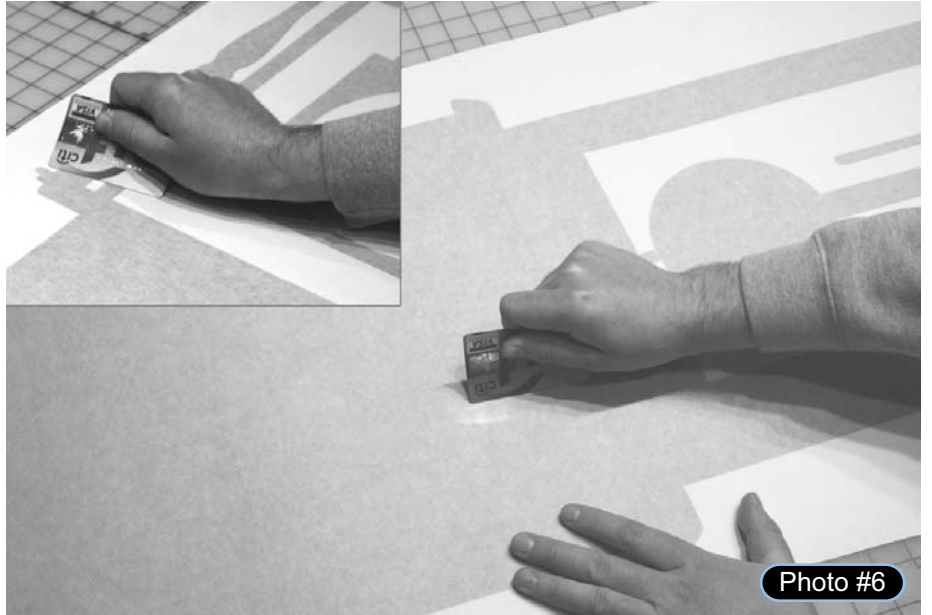


Photo #6

Next you should re-flatten the small intricate areas of your vinyl decal. Many of these small intricate areas that contain smaller and more detail pieces of vinyl will need re-flattening to ensure that they properly stick to the application tape. Stand over your vinyl decal and use your thumb and body weight to firmly press down on the intricate parts of your vinyl decal (as shown in photo #7).

Later this will also aid the process of removing the intricate areas of your vinyl decal from the wax paper backing.

Note that this step is also not required, but again is highly recommended before installing your vinyl decal.

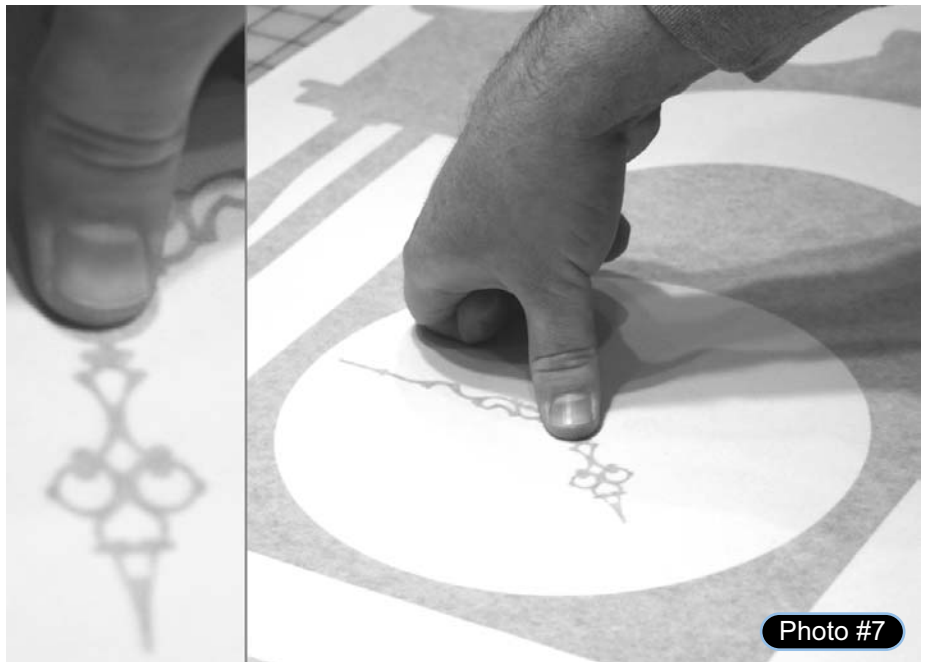


Photo #7

## INSTALLATION - STEP 1:

If you want the vinyl decal to be perfectly straight and aligned with the floor and/or ceiling above it then we recommend that you review the techniques described in the "Advanced Installation Tips" attached starting on page 8.

Using small tabs of tape (masking tape or painter's tape will work best for this), tack the vinyl decal to the wall until you are satisfied with your placement (*as shown in photo #8*). This is to ensure proper placement of your vinyl decal before the wax paper backing is removed. If you have a large or tall vinyl decal you should use a stool, step ladder or chair to stand on to aid the process of choosing the placement of your vinyl decal (*as shown in photo #9*).

Next apply a horizontal strip of tape to the top of your vinyl decal. The strip should be split between the vinyl decal and the intended surface (*as shown in photo #10*). Next, remove the small tabs of tape you created in the beginning of this step when you apply this horizontal strip of masking tape (*as shown in photo #11*). This strip will be used as a hinge to ensure the vinyl decal does not move during the application process.

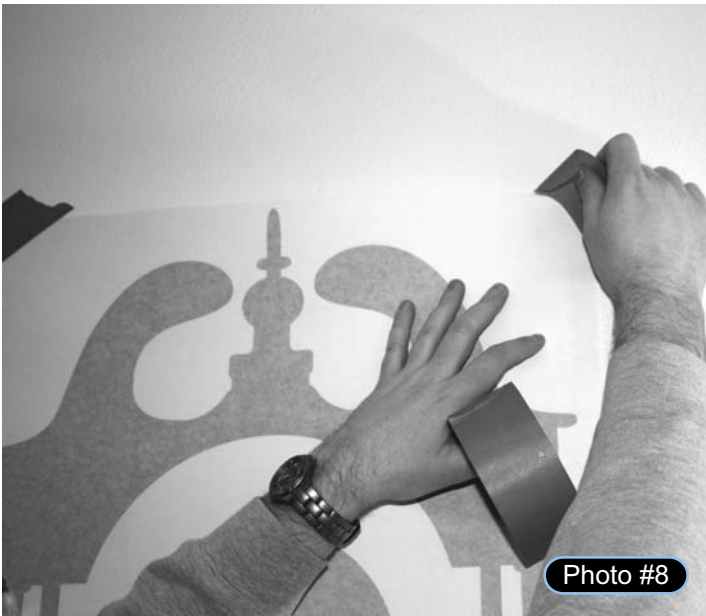


Photo #8



Photo #9

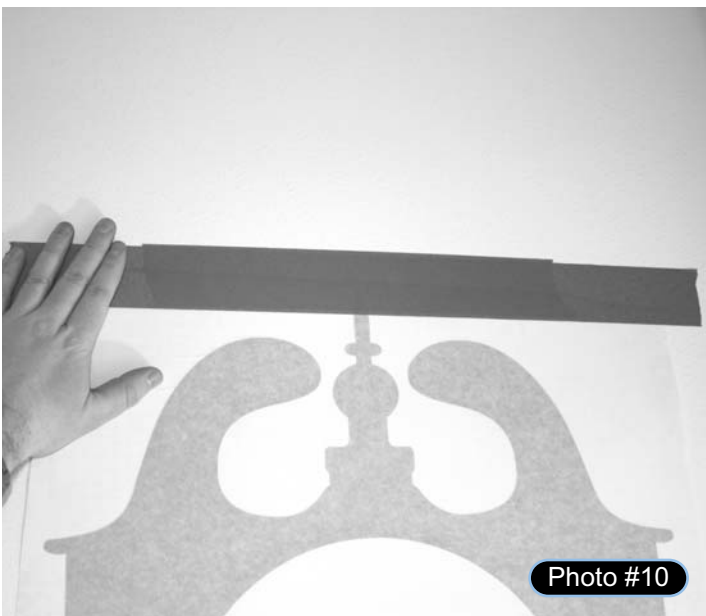


Photo #10



Photo #11

## INSTALLATION - STEP 2:

Hold the bottom edge of the hinged vinyl decal away from the wall (as shown in photo #12) and remove the wax paper backing by peeling or rolling it back over itself at a **170-180 degree** angle while keeping the horizontal strip of tape attached to the wall (as shown in photos #13 and #14). This will remove the vinyl decal from the wax paper backing and reveal the sticky backing of your vinyl decal. The back of the vinyl decal is very tacky so be sure to keep it lifted away from the wall until you are ready to apply it. If you have a large or long vinyl decal it helps to have another person help you hold the hinged area of the vinyl decal while you remove the wax paper backing. Once the wax paper backing is removed, save it for use later in the application process.

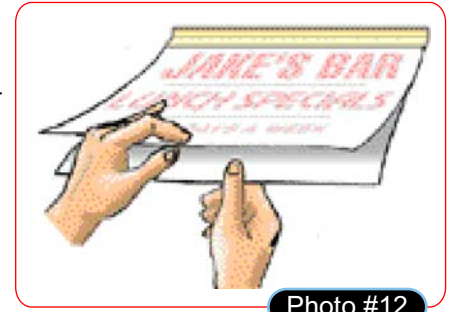


Photo #12

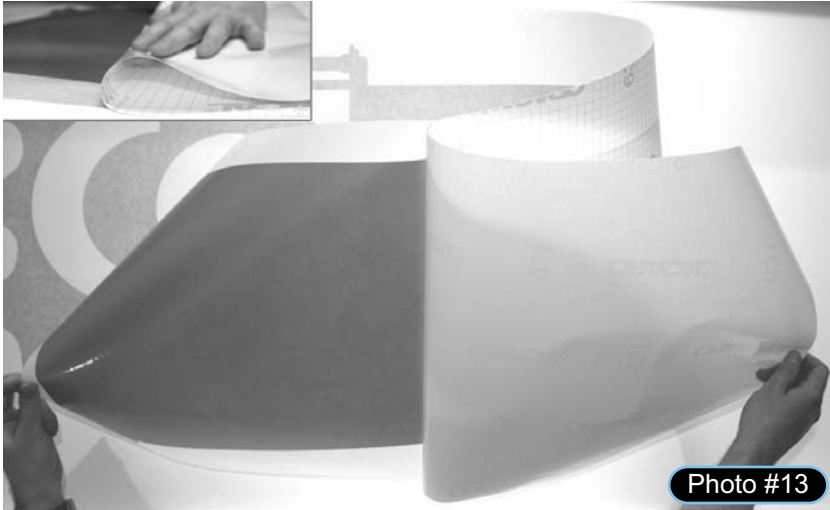


Photo #13

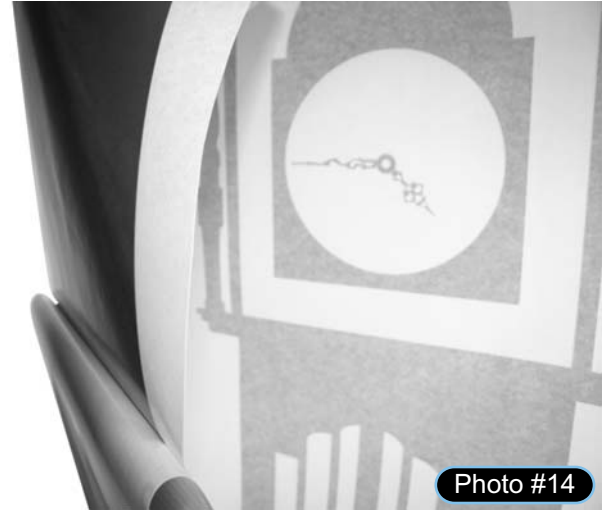


Photo #14

## INSTALLATION - STEP 3:

Next you should continue to hold the hinged vinyl decal (that's now stuck to the application tape) away from the wall. Use a squeegee or a hard plastic card (such as a credit card) and starting from the top, begin to marry the vinyl decal to the wall (as shown in photo #15).

### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Work from top to bottom.
- Start in the center top and work your way out and slightly down to both ends, smoothing out as you go (as shown in photo #16).
- Do not let the entire vinyl decal fall onto the wall.
- If lines or creases develop, lift and replace the vinyl decal.

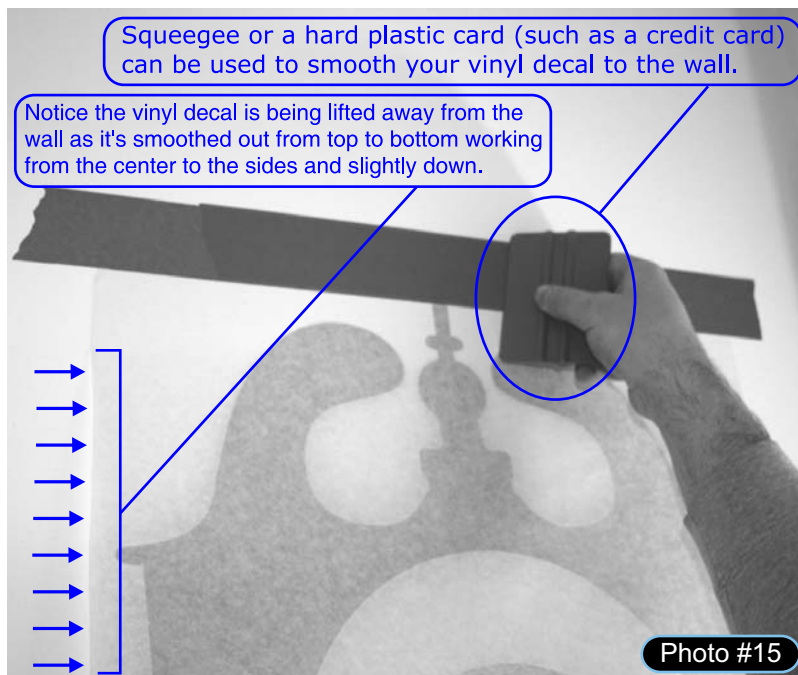


Photo #15

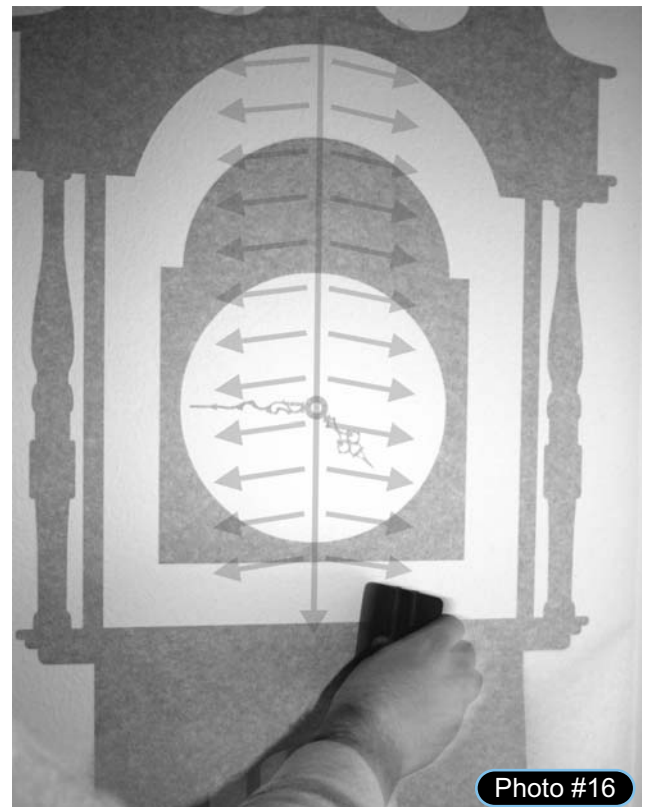


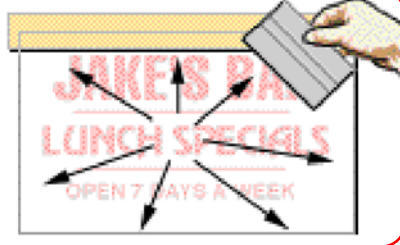
Photo #16

The movement of your squeegee or a hard plastic card (such as a credit card) should follow the direction of the arrows in Photo #16 above.

**INSTALLATION - STEP 4:**

Your vinyl decal should now be adhered to the wall. Once again use your squeegee or a hard plastic card (such as a credit card) to rub out towards the edge from the middle to help further transfer your vinyl decal to the wall (as shown in photos #17 and #18). This will help release any air bubbles. **Photo #17**

Here's an example of the squeegee's or hard plastic card's (such as a credit card) movements on a smaller vinyl decal.



Larger vinyl decals will require you to follow the length of the vinyl decal while you rub from the middle to the edges. Your squeegee or a hard plastic card (such as a credit card) should follow the direction of the arrows in photo #18.



**Photo #18**

**DO NOT SKIP THIS STEP!**

**INSTALLATION - STEP 5:**

Now it's time to remove the application tape from the vinyl decal and reveal the final product. First you need to remove the horizontal hinge of tape you created to hold your vinyl decal in place (as shown in photo #19). Next gently and slowly peel the application tape starting from the top or the bottom at a **170-180 degree** angle back over itself (as shown in photo #20). Take your time and don't rush this step if you want the best results.

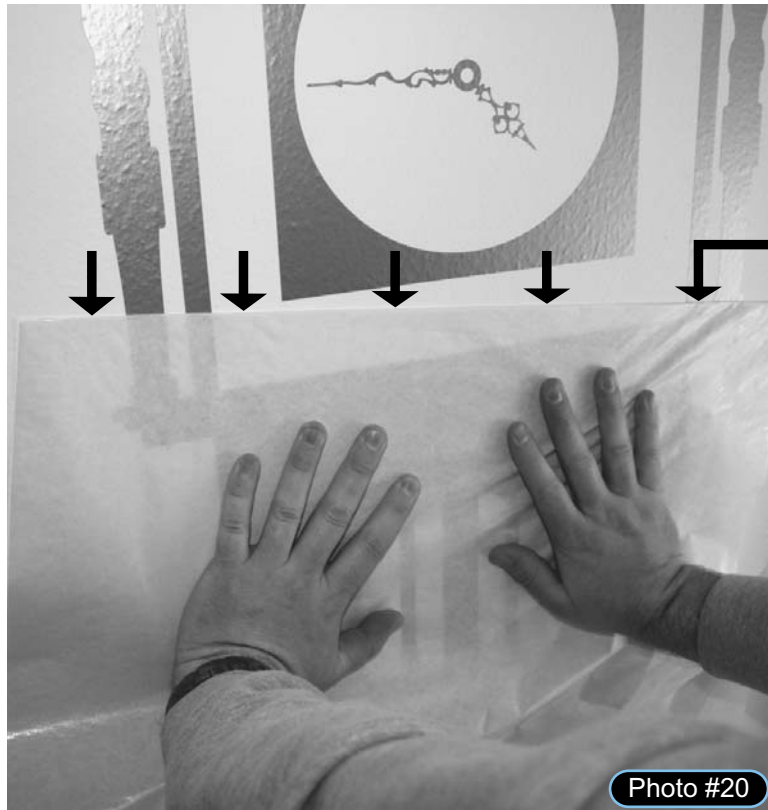


**Photo #19**

**SLOWLY** remove the application tape by rolling it **BACK OVER ITSELF** at a **170-180 degree** angle.

**IMPORTANT TIPS:**

- 1). DO NOT PULL straight back on the application tape. It's VERY important that it's removed at an 170-180 angle.
- 2). If portions of the decal want to lift from the wall even when you're removing the application tape at the correct angle then move on to STEP 6 which will help keep the decal on the wall.
- 3). If you have a lightly textured wall (decals will not stick to a heavy textured wall) you will want to use the techniques described in STEP 6 to help the vinyl decal adhere to your wall.



**Photo #20**

**WARNING: DO NOT SKIP THE NEXT STEP!**

Need more help? Here's a link to our YouTube video which covers steps 2-6: <http://video.vinyldesigns.com> or <http://youtu.be/w-196CHwWU>

## INSTALLATION - STEP 6:

**DO NOT SKIP THIS STEP!**

In most cases, the vinyl decal should remain on the wall as you slowly peel the application tape away. However, if the vinyl decal wants to lift a little (*as shown in photo #22*) simply flip the application tape back over a bit and use your thumb (or palm of your hand for larger areas) to firmly press on the area that wants to lift (*as shown in photo #23*) and then continue to remove the application tape. The area that wanted to lift should now remain on the wall (*as shown in photo #24*).

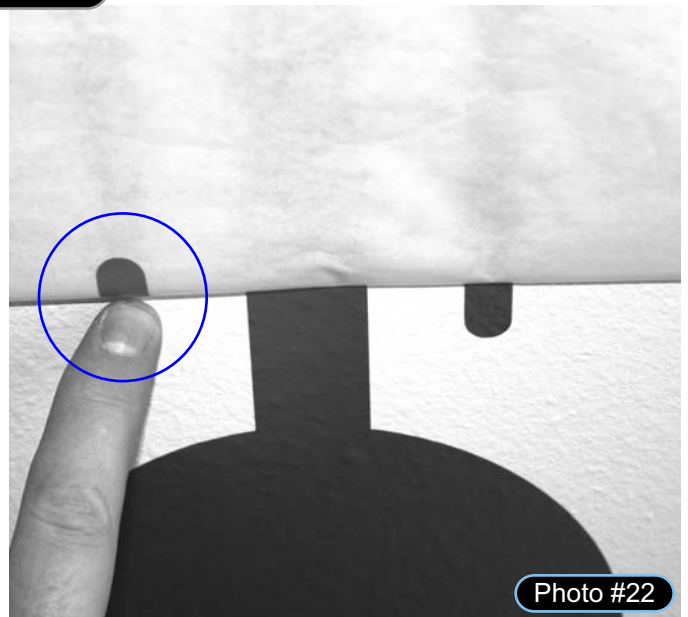


Photo #22

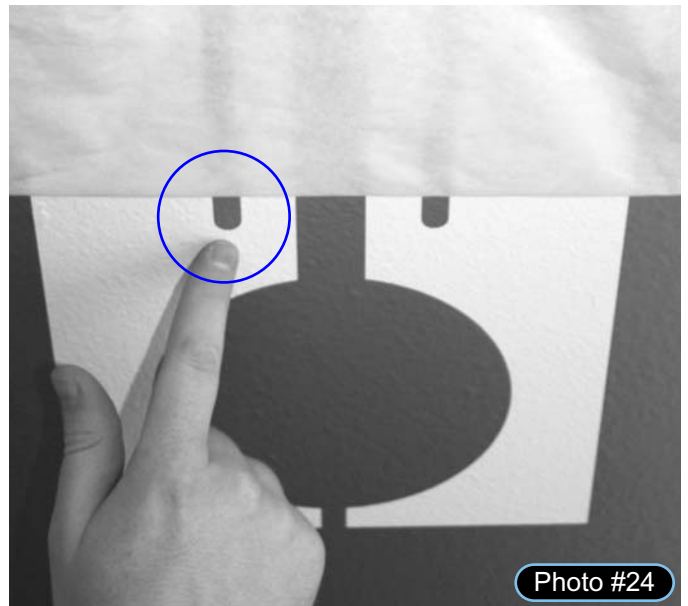


Photo #24



Photo #23

## INSTALLATION - STEP 6:

For the last time use your squeegee or a hard plastic card (such as a credit card) to rub out any remaining air bubbles (if any) while using a piece of the wax paper backing you were told to save in an earlier step. Lay the piece of wax paper backing over your vinyl decal with the shiny waxy side facing you. This will protect your vinyl decal from getting scuffed while you apply firm pressure across the top of it to rub out any remaining air bubbles (*as shown in photo #25*). You can also use a pin or a needle to lightly puncture the bubbles to release the air.

**YOU ARE NOW FINISHED!** Now sit back and enjoy your new wall art!

For those of you who have a vinyl decal that needs to sit flush with the edge of your floor or floor trim then continue on the next page for more instructions.

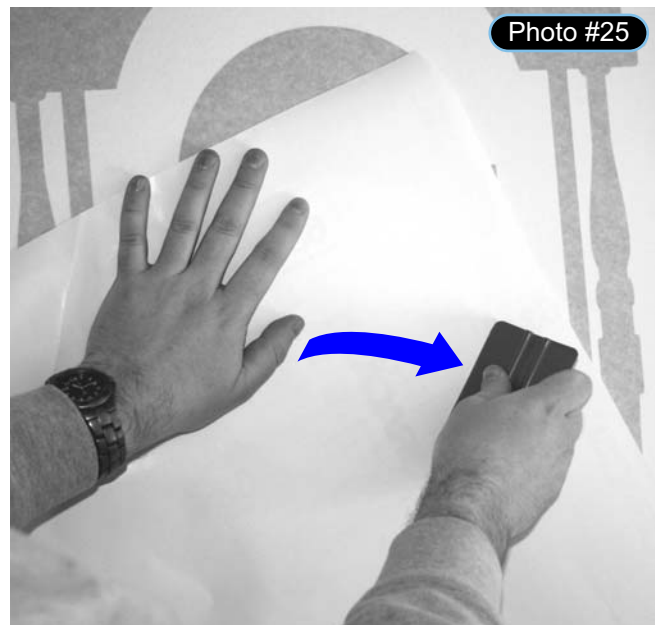


Photo #25

**ADVANCED INSTALLATION TIPS**  
**- AND -**  
**REMOVAL INSTRUCTIONS**

*THESE STEPS ARE  
NOT REQUIRED*

**Table of Contents:**

- Page 8 - Precise Alignment Installation Instructions.
- Page 10 - Trimming your Vinyl Decal (flush to the floor or floor trim installations only).
- Page 10 - Removing your Vinyl Decal

## PRECISE ALIGNMENT - STEP 1:

Locate an area on your vinyl decal that can be used to help you create a straight horizontal line which you can use as a reference point to properly align it to the wall. Using a ruler or any long straight object draw a straight line across the surface of the application tape using a pencil or pen (*as shown in photo #26 and 27*).

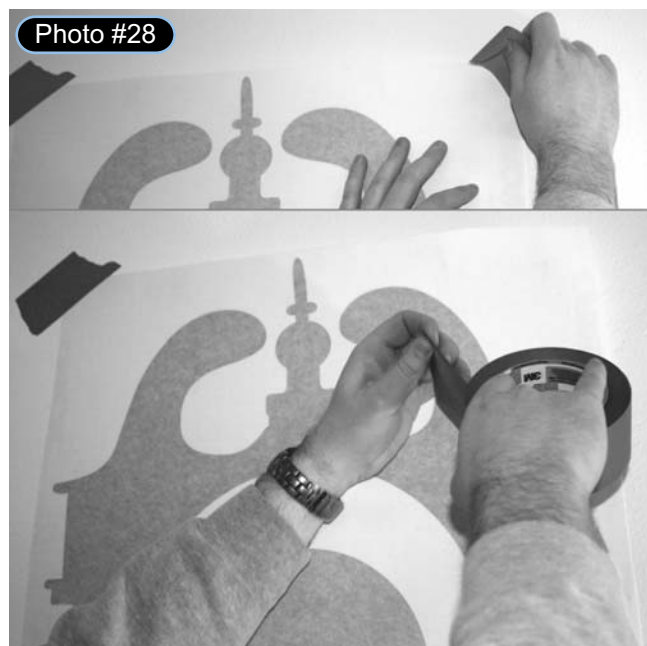
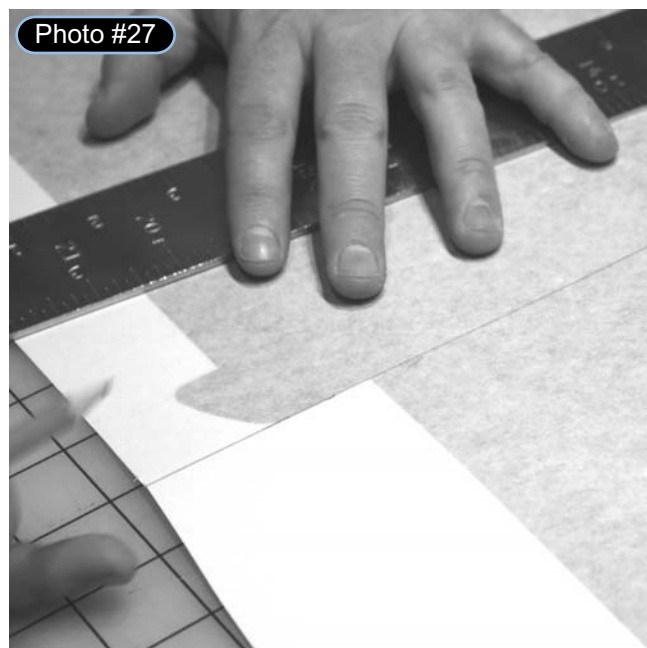
Notice in photo #26 I used the protruding frame around the lower base of the grandfather clock vinyl decal (which likely is horizontally aligned) to draw this horizontal line.

Some vinyl decals may not have flat edges or horizontal objects in the vinyl decal to help you draw this line. In that case you will have to use your eyes to locate the best place for this horizontal line. Most vinyl decals that you have to "eye-ball align" will not look funny if they are slightly unaligned so don't be concerned if it's not perfect. These types of vinyl decals have no flat edges or horizontally aligned elements for your eyes to use for reference, thus there would be no way for the human eye to tell it's not aligned properly.

If you're attempting to use letters for alignment note that some letters such as "j," "g" or "y" fall below the baseline and the tails of these letters are not always uniformly horizontal.

Note that you'll be using the floor and ceiling to properly align your vinyl decal. If the floor and/or ceiling are not level/straight, then you can create your own straight edge (in the form of a line) by using a water soluble pencil to draw a straight line across the wall the vinyl decal will be applied to. It helps if this line extends past the vinyl decal's edges at each end or you may not see this line once you lay the vinyl decal on top of it. If you don't have a water soluble pencil to create this horizontal line then put a long piece of masking tape on the wall and draw this line using a pencil or a pen on the piece of tape instead of the wall.

Using small tabs of tape (masking tape or painter's tape will work best for this), tack the vinyl decal to the wall until you are satisfied with your placement (*as shown in photo #28*).





## PRECISE ALIGNMENT - STEP 2:

Next, you should use the horizontal line you drew on the application tape for reference use a measuring tape to measure either from the ceiling or the floor on each end of the horizontal line (*as shown in photos #29 and #30*). If the measurements are different on each side then your vinyl decal is not straight. It's easy to move your decal into alignment if it's not straight. Simply remove one of the tabs of tape and adjust that side until it's close to the same measurement from your horizontal pencil line as the other side. Then quickly re-apply the tab of tape to keep it in place (*as shown in photo #31*). Now that your vinyl decal is in perfect alignment go ahead and skip back to the THIRD paragraph of "INSTALLATION - STEP 1" on page 3.

Photo #29



Photo #30

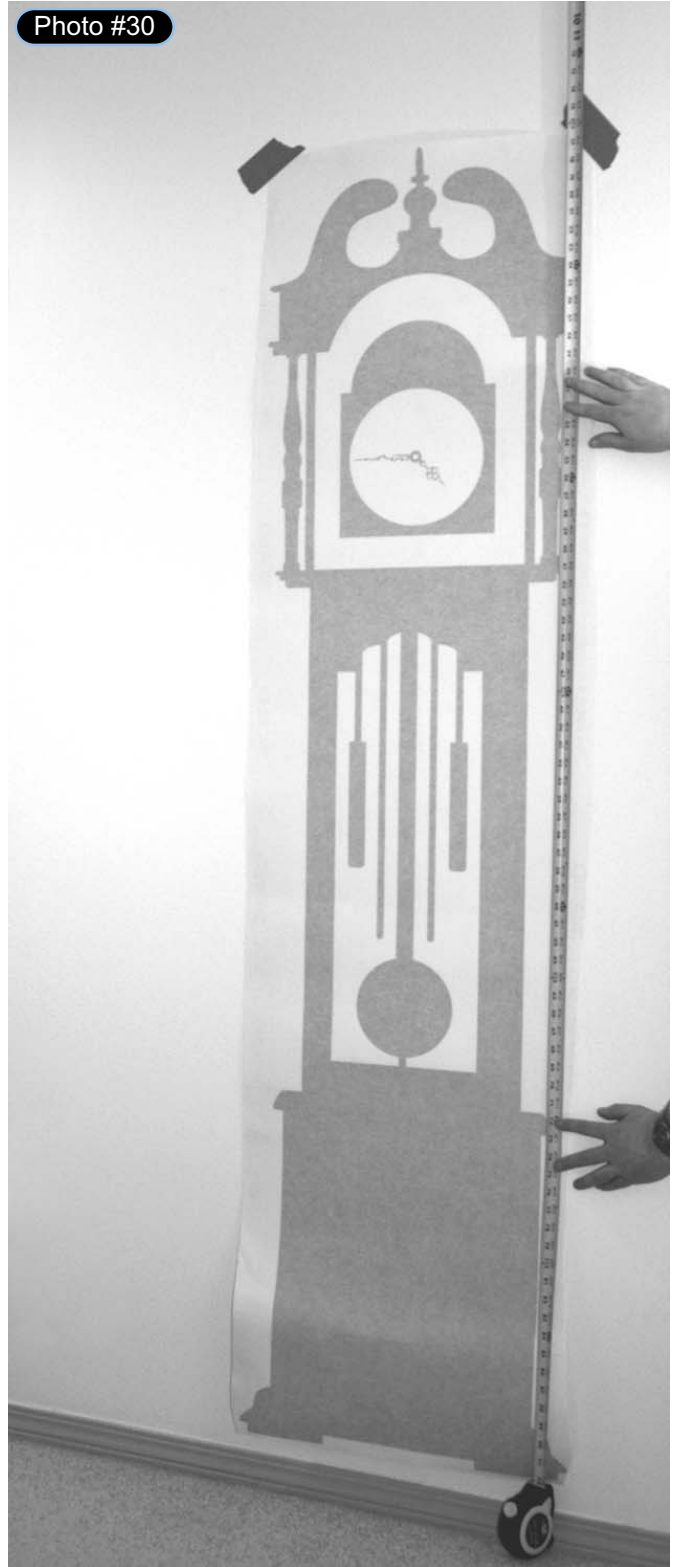


Photo #31



## TRIMMING YOUR VINYL DECAL:

This step is only necessary if you want your vinyl decal flush with the floor or floor trim. If your vinyl decal goes all the way to the floor, some of it may need to be cut or trimmed away in order to make it flush with the floor or floor trim. Use a razor blade or very sharp knife to carefully trim or cut away the vinyl that's overlapping onto your floor or floor trim (*as shown in photos #32 and #33*). The overlapping area of your vinyl decal that has been trimmed or cut can be peeled away by hand to expose a new edge that should be flush with your floor or floor trim (*as shown in photo #34*).



Photo #32

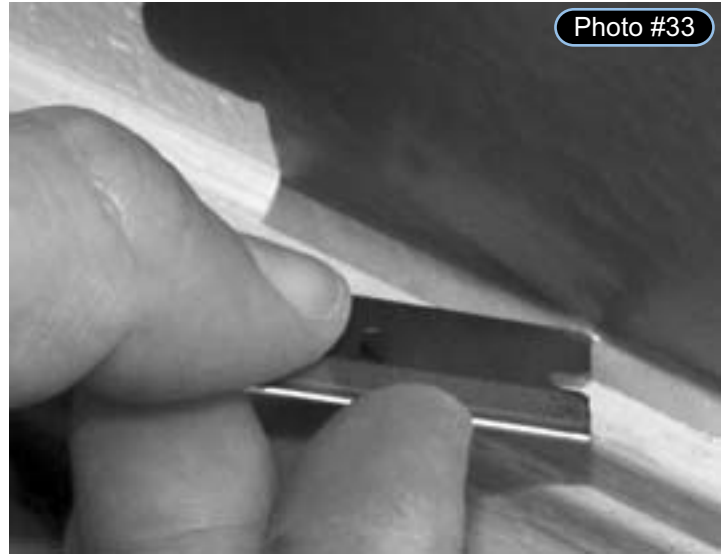


Photo #33



Photo #34

## VINYL DECAL REMOVAL TIPS:

To remove the vinyl decal from your wall, simply peel up an edge and slowly peel straight back over itself at a **170-180 degree** angle, not up or straight back. Go slowly and take your time. If any adhesive residue remains on the surface once you have removed your vinyl decal, then use an adhesive remover such as GooGone to remove any film left behind. If you are removing it from a delicate surface like a wall, you can use a hair dryer (on its lowest heat setting) to soften it up and make removal easier. Do not use a heat gun as it can re-activate the adhesive and/or melt your vinyl decal making it bond to the wall even more. If the vinyl decal has been exposed to the elements for a long time (such as years of direct sunlight, bathroom steam or high humidity) the vinyl decal may be brittle and can break apart. In this case use a hair dryer or heat gun to soften the vinyl to assist with removal.