



How to apply a vinyl stencil

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

- Item you are applying it to
- Vinyl Decal with Transfer Tape Applied
- Hard item for smoothing it on, such as a squeegee/credit card
- Paint and Painting Tool

Step 1

Prepare the sticker for application by firmly rubbing a squeegee or credit card across the clear transfer tape. This removes any air bubbles that may have formed and makes the vinyl cling to the transfer tape.

Step 2

Place the stencil face down (transfer tape side on the table) and peel the white paper backing off the vinyl. If the vinyl clings to the backing, slowly replace the paper backing, rub the spot that was not sticking to the tape and begin peeling the back away again. I always find working at an angle works best.

Step 3

Slowly lower the vinyl onto the surface where desired and rub it in place firmly with a squeegee or credit card. You'll want to make sure it's smoothed on well and avoid bubbles/creases as that's where bleeding can occur. Be careful not to let it touch until you are ready to place it because it will stick and can be hard to peel off and move. I usually figure where I'd like it while the paper backing is still on just to make it easier.

Step 4

Slowly peel the clear transfer tape off at an angle. Be careful not to pull the vinyl off the surface. If vinyl pulls away from the surface with the tape, lower the transfer tape back down onto the board, rub that piece on again, and then slowly peel the transfer tape again.

Step 5

Paint the stencil – I use a roller, but you can use a brush, sponge or spray paint as well. Once you have enough coats, let it dry and peel off the stencil. It will rip and tear, so just peel all of the pieces of the stencil off and you are done!

TIPS: if working on a wood sign that has been painted, I always start with the same color as the board for the first coat over the stencil before painting the color I want it. This helps to avoid bleeding under the stencil edges. If you are working with stained wood, you can just paint it or you can put a clear coat first such as ModPodge to seal up the edges. I find flatter paints work best with stained wood.

See videos and photos of the stenciling process on my blog:

Wooden Growth Chart Ruler: <http://shescraftyllc.com/growth-chart-diy-with-video>

Glass Pyrex Dish (good close ups of the vinyl process): <http://shescraftyllc.com/etching-a-pyrex-dish/>

Most Importantly: HAVE FUN!