

## How to Use Vinyl-Off™

Vinyl-Off™ is a safe ready to use product designed to assist in removing vinyl graphics AND adhesive from multiple substrates (metal, glass, canvas, FRP, painted surfaces, gel coat, fiberglass, etc) IN ONE STEP! Vinyl-Off™ is a productivity enhancement tool (up to 90% less time) and its benefits are the most obvious on older, difficult to remove vinyl graphics and decals. Used properly it will remove vinyl and 90-98% of the adhesive at the same time.

Want to see how well it works?  
Try pulling some of the vinyl in your traditional manner without Vinyl-Off™.  
Then apply Vinyl-Off™ and just follow the directions.

### Step by Step

- 1. Test – Test – Test** A little planning can save you a lot of effort!
  - We recommend starting with a small area and determining the best method of dwell time, amount of heat, and angle of pull.
  - For best results, warm surfaces immediately before attempting removal. Warm to the touch. **Sun warmed on a warm day is perfect!**
- 1. Wipe or roller apply Vinyl-Off™ onto ONLY the vinyl you want to remove using:**
  - Pad Sponge, T-shirt Rag, Fine Nap Paint Roller, Paper Towel, etc.
  - **REMEMBER A LITTLE VINYL-OFF GOES A LONG WAY! LESS IS MORE**
  - For LARGER APPLICATIONS: Use fine nap paint roller and work on 1 panel at a time
- 2. Allow a few minutes dwell time. Vinyl-Off™ penetrates the vinyl and attacks the adhesive behind it.** (Dwell time will depend on vinyl thickness and age).
  - Longer dwell times will be necessary for older vinyl and if the ambient temperature is below 60°F, applying an additional coat of Vinyl-Off™ immediately before removing may also be helpful.
- 3. Apply heat source and another coat of Vinyl-Off™**
  - Non-Flammable and no toxic fumes! So you can use a heat gun or propane to warm the surface even indoors!
- 4. Using a plastic scraper; begin lifting corner edge of Vinyl and pull at a 35° angle. The vinyl will come off in larger pieces because it has been rejuvenated.**
  - If it leaves the adhesive behind, Vinyl-Off™ is being too aggressive! Use less heat or shorten the dwell time if this occurs.
  - If the Vinyl is not lifting like you would hope, increase heat used, and increase dwell time, it also may be necessary to rough the surface of the vinyl up with a fine grit (100+) sandpaper to allow Vinyl-Off to penetrate vinyl more easily.
- 5. Most of the adhesive should come with the vinyl. Remove any remaining adhesive by either re-applying Vinyl-Off™ or applying Adhesive –Off. Wipe off**



If you require more assistance or have any questions  
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO GIVE US A CALL. 8:30-5:30 M-F EST  
770-685-6151 or 404-492-6661 for TECHNICAL SUPPORT  
We are HAPPY to help ☺

## CRYSTATEK VINYL-OFF™ FAQ SHEET

### THE ONLY ONE-STEP VINYL & ADHESIVE REMOVER

**Q. How does VINYL OFF™ work?** A. VINYL OFF™ migrates through the vinyl layer, revitalizing it as it passes, and reduces the adhesion level to the substrate while leaving the adhesion to the vinyl sufficiently intact. When the vinyl is pulled its renewed flexibility allows it to be removed in larger pieces with the adhesive still attached. VINYL OFF™ is a ready to use non-hazardous, nonflammable, biodegradable, non-toxic solvent. VINYL OFF™ does not contain petroleum distillates, caustics, acids or butyl ethers and can be safely used indoors.

**Q. How do you apply it?** A. VINYL-OFF™ is a *Ready to Use* product designed for professional users. Apply with a pad, sponge, foam brush, fine nap roller, even a paper towel to dry vinyl surface selected for removal. Allow one to five minutes of dwell time depending on vinyl thickness and age. Raise an edge of the vinyl, peel to remove at a 35° angle. Vinyl decals are temperature sensitive and this product works best if surface is warmed immediately before removing. With a little practice to determine the correct dwell time, temperature and angle of pull for your specific project the adhesive is removed as well. Apply only amount needed to cover surface to be removed. *A little goes a long way and if it runs, you are using too much!*

**Q. When does the vinyl fall off?** A. It doesn't. VINYL-OFF™ is a productivity enhancement tool. We get reports of up to 200% faster removal but you still have to peel.

**Q. Why do I have adhesive left after removal?** A1. Typically, noticeable adhesive residue is a result of VINYL-OFF™ being too aggressive. This can be caused by three different things: 1) too much heat. Ideal working temperature for this product in most cases is comfortably warm to your touch typically above 80°F/28C. 2) Being left too long on the surface or 3) too much being used. Some crews have reportedly re-applied VINYL-OFF™ prior to pulling to try and make the job that much easier. This is not a "more is better" product! It has a specifically engineered balance for optimum results. A2. A layer of non-vinyl in the film has kept VINYL-OFF™ from getting to the adhesive layer. VINYL-OFF™ will help to get the top layer removed, but the second step of removing the adhesive will need to be addressed with an adhesive remover like our Adhesive-Off.

**Q. Why is the vinyl so soft?** A1. This is usually caused by a combination of overheat and very thin vinyl. Apply and pull immediately rather than waiting. In really hot conditions, either cool the surface (and your crew) with water and allow to dry prior to application, or mix 1/3 water with 2/3 VINYL OFF™ prior to application. (NOTE: be careful with this step. Diluting changes the predetermined balance and cannot be changed back.) A2. There may be a metal layer in the vinyl that is turning the product back and concentrating all its power in the top layer. VINYL-OFF™ may not be the correct choice for this application.

**Q. I applied as the directions said and nothing seems to be happening, why?** A1. VINYL OFF™ is designed to penetrate the vinyl and weaken the adhesive. If the product is doing its job the changes are usually not visible without a lot of magnification. There may be exceptions including when the vinyl bridges a gap such as around rivets. If you are testing VINYL-OFF™ for a new application, we recommend that you use your normal removal technique with and without to see the difference. A2. Some older graphics, reflective graphics and conspicuity may have been produced with a polyester "protective" lamination or a layer of metal within the film. VINYL-OFF™ is intended to penetrate vinyl decals and may not be effective on other materials. A3. In these cases sometimes it may be useful to "rough" up the graphics' surface with sandpaper before applying VINYL-OFF™ A4. Some "problem" adhesives require special application methods. Please CrystalTek technical support if you think you have run into one of these. We can advise methods to try that differ in timing or method from the generally successful directions on the label.

**Q. The surface is too cold. What should I do?** A. Best results are achieved when the surface temperature is above 55°F/13C at time of application. Let stand a little longer before removing in cooler environments. Vinyl decals remove easiest when *warm*, typically above 80°F/28C+. When a temperature-controlled facility is not an option, try turning the working surface to face the sun, use heat lamps, heat gun or propane. Remember, too cold and the vinyl will take longer to remove. Too hot may leave significant adhesive residue requiring additional clean up time and reduced productivity. Whatever your preferred method VINYL-OFF™ will make the job easier, faster, cleaner and safer.

**Q. VINYL-OFF™ 104 affected the paint. Why?** A. VINYL-OFF™ will not harm properly catalyzed automotive paint, but always TEST-TEST-TEST on an inconspicuous area before application. There are many paint choices at the point of manufacture and again during aftermarket repairs. We recommend that you wipe or roller apply only to the vinyl intended for removal. If the product is running off its intended surface then too much is being applied! *A little VINYL-OFF™ goes a long way, so if it runs use less!*

A1. Occasionally temporary softening has been reported mostly on recently painted equipment and aged surfaces with heavy oxidation. Painted surfaces returned to their previous condition when VINYL-OFF™ evaporated or was gently rinsed with water or both. A2. Some non-primed, non-catalyzed paint may be seriously affected by this product. E.g. do not use this on Aluma-Lite Signs unless you pretest or want the paint removed as well. Properly catalyzed paint is generally not affected. A3. Paint that was not correctly cured prior to graphics being applied is going to be an issue no matter what the method of vinyl removal.

**Q. Is there a recommended way to remove really large graphics?** A. Yes. Fine nap roller, apply to a few strips at a time (usually 2-4 feet wide). Allow to penetrate, heat and score *only the next strip* then pull. Alternate applying more VINYL-OFF™ with scoring heating and pulling so that you are not waiting for product to penetrate as you remove. If you score prior or during dwell time, the product may be too aggressive in the scores and leave strips of adhesive.