

Vinyl Film Removal Guidelines

Dependant on the longevity of the vinyl, it is unlikely that you will be fortunate to remove the vinyl easily without the use of heat equipment or with any gum residue or glue left following vinyl removal.

For satisfactory results when removing vinyl films, you will need a heat gun or adequate hair dryer, Tar and Spot Remover or citrus based cleaning solution, an object with a flat, straight (preferably thin plastic) edge, lots of (preferably lint- free) clean dusters, elbow grease and stamina.

If you have a heat gun or decent hairdryer:

Work on a 12" / 300mm square (approximately) area at a time and heat the surface moderately. Take care not to overheat and scorch the vinyl or the surface. Once you have removed a square of vinyl by gently peeling and pulling, you will understand how much heat to wave over the vinyl graphics.

The objective is to heat the film just enough to remove easily without picking off hundreds of tiny bits, but not too much that there'll be large areas of gum residue left on the removed areas beneath the vinyl.

Visit Dingbro (in Dundee, Kirkcaldy and several other branches) and purchase a gallon / 5Ltr of Tar and Spot Remover (RRP £15ish).

This goes for miles and you'll find it useful for other cleaning projects afterwards. Fill a spray bottle with the Tar and Spot Remover and use in a well ventilated area out of direct sunlight. This has a strong odour so be careful not to spill everywhere.

Spray the solution on the surfaces where there is gum residue left, after removing the vinyl. Leave for approximately 20 seconds and scrape off with a dull razor blade, window scraper, edge of old credit card, etc.

Be careful not to gouge the surfaces when scraping off any thick areas of gum residue.

Spray again and rub with clean dusters.

Repeat spray + rub with clean duster, avoiding spreading the glue and until the surface is clean.

Environmental factors, temperature and age can affect the vinyl's bond strength as well as the method in which you are removing the film.

This may require considerable time and effort.