

# Practical Information

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## ORAFOL® Digital Printing Materials



ORAFOL® Europe GmbH

### **1 Introduction**

ORAFOL offers a wide range of self-adhesive digital printing materials for many different applications. They come with a well-matched set of laminating films. To ensure that the films display the specified properties, it is important to follow the instructions for preparation and application which can be found on the Internet under [www.orafol.de](http://www.orafol.de).

If you want to apply an ORAJET®-material on a car, please also see our practical information for self-adhesive films for application on cars (Download: [www.orafol.de](http://www.orafol.de)).

ORAFOL® recommends to use only material with the same batch number for one graphical application. In this context ORAFOL® ensures that every film roll consists of material of the same batch no. and consequently does not have any splice. When different batch numbers are used the technician should make tests to find out possible differences in using the films and in the quality of the graphical application.

### **2 Storage and Processing Conditions**

The self-adhesive products which ORAFOL® supplies in rolls should at all times be stored either suspended (with end caps) or standing on end on the roll blocks, and never lying (without end caps). For storage and processing, they should be kept in a cool, dry place protected from sunlight. Relative air humidity between 40% and 50% and temperature between +18°C and +22°C should be ensured. Direct sunlight, storage beside radiators etc. should by all means be avoided. Please observe the shelf life instructions contained in the technical data sheet accompanying each film.

### **3 Instructions for Printing**

The digital printing materials should generally be handled with a high degree of care. Cotton gloves should be used to prevent damage to the surface or soiling. Check the surface quality prior to printing or application. Also check the print file with profiling. The ORACAL®/ORAJET® digital printing media require - due to their differing qualities like the thickness of the adhesive layer - different parameter settings of the printer and the selecting software (RIP). Make sure you take the relevant amount of ink and specific colour definitions into account. In addition, check the specifications of the digital printing materials and the inks for their respective applications (indoor/outdoor) and durability, and match them accordingly.

### **4 Drying up**

Freshly printed films should be spread out and left to dry after printing to allow the residual solvent to evaporate. If freshly printed vinyls are plotted in the printed areas the vinyl might shrink. Laminating too early might - depending on the used ink - affect the functionality of the film (adhesive power, service life) by preventing residual solvents to evaporate. Printed and not sufficiently dried films shrink after printing during the drying process. If the drying process of the vinyls takes place after application on the substrate, the film might shrink and come off at the edges, from corrugations and rivets.

Following these processing and handling instructions we recommend to spread out and dry the film for at least 72 hours (lying or hanging).

### **5 Lamination**

Lamination of inkjet prints is recommended to ensure longer

lives at optimum quality (gloss, colour depth, mechanical damage). ORAGUARD® laminate films enhance the colour effect for the desired appearance of the surface (glossy, matt, semi-gloss), provide excellent protection against the UV rays of the sun destroying the colour pigments, and against humidity and abrasion. Soiling can easily be removed by using common cleaning agents. We recommend only using films of same manufacture and type (e.g. monomeric PVC film on monomeric PVC film and polymeric PVC film on polymeric PVC film) as their raw materials are accurately matched with each other. Lamination has to be done stress-free to prevent a deformation of the film compound. For the same reason we recommend to ensure that the temperature of the compactor is not higher than +30°C.

Furthermore, we refer you to our list of recommendations for complementary application of the printing materials in Inkjet and thermo transfer printing, and to the specific laminating films provided for their surface protection. For product information about ORAGUARD® laminates, please see [www.orafol.com](http://www.orafol.com).

### **6 Application**

The application is described in the Practical Information for Plotter Films. For the application on cars please see additionally the practical information on how to apply self-adhesive films on cars.

For the application on car windows the remarks in the practical information for self-adhesive films for application on cars are to be followed.

### **7 Removability**

Please see the practical information for Plotter Films.

### **8 General Information**

ORAFOL will provide information on recommended printers and ICC profiles. A free CD with ICC profiles for various printers may be made available.

This information is based on our knowledge and experience. We have not explain all considering aspects of application. Specialized or occupational knowledge and competence of an professional sign maker are presupposed. Due to the diversity of potential influencing factors during application and use, we recommend to make own tests of our products by customers who wish to use the films for special applications.

No legally binding warranty of certain qualities can be derived from our information.

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