



Application and Maintenance For 3M™ Ink Jet Graphics for Floors

General Information

This Bulletin gives specific instructions for the application and maintenance of graphics for floors.

Health and Safety

Caution

Read the manufacturers' container labels and the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for health hazard data, precautionary information, suggested first aid, and environmental information when handling any chemical products. For health and safety information for 3M products, or in case of an emergency, call 800-364-3577 or 651-737-6501.

When using any equipment, always follow the manufacturers' instructions for safe operation.

Application Procedures

Application Surfaces

Caution

Before handling any chemical products, always read the container label and the MSDS.

Recommended Floor Surfaces

Warning

The safety and performance of these films are warranted or assured only on the surfaces listed below. Any other surface must be approved in writing by 3M Commercial Graphics Technical Service prior to application.

FOR INDOOR USE ONLY.

3M ink jet graphics for floors have been approved for application to the following floor surfaces.

- Waxed vinyl
- Sealed concrete
- Marble
- Ceramic tile
- Sealed wood
- Terrazzo

Condition of Floor Surfaces

The floor surface must be secure and in good condition.

- Avoid installing graphics for floors over loose tile.
- Avoid installing graphics for floors over uneven tile.
- Be sure the floor finish is well bonded to the floor surface. Floor finishes that are not well bonded to the surface may separate or release, resulting in premature lifting of the graphic. In addition, the floor finish may come off with the graphic when the graphic is removed, requiring the reapplication of the floor finish.
- Properly clean the floor surface, including removing any silicone coatings, except in grout line area of tile. Refer to Surface Preparation on page 2 for guidelines.
- The floor surface application temperature range is 50° to 100°F (10° to 38°C).

Location of Ink Jet Graphics for Floors

Caution

Any floor surface, including 3M ink jet graphics for floors, that is wet due to rain, snow, or other contaminants may become slippery. To avoid personal injury due to slipping:

- Place 3M ink jet graphics for floors far enough away from entryways that they stay dry.
- Use doormats to reduce moisture at entryways.
- Clean up water, spills, or other contaminants immediately.

Graphics for floors may be damaged by pallets or heavy equipment such as fork-lifts as well as by dragging heavy items across the top of the graphic. If possible, locate graphics for floors out of the main stream flow of pallet or heavy equipment traffic. Minor edge chipping is unavoidable.

Surface Preparation

All floor surfaces must be cleaned prior to applying 3M ink jet graphics for floors, including surfaces that are sealed, waxed, or painted.

To clean the floor, use the 3M™ Ink Jet Application Kit for Graphics for Floors. If this kit is not available, or if the graphic is very large or the floor is very dirty, use the following procedure.

Surface Cleaning

1. Spray the floor area where the graphic will be applied. Use a solution of 20 drops of detergent per pint (400 ml) of water. Do not use soaps or enzyme detergents.
2. Clean an area that is 6 to 8 inches (152 to 203 mm) larger than the graphic.
3. Wipe the floor clean and then dry it with a lint-free paper towel, such as 3M™ Perfect-it™ Wipe or the equivalent. Be sure you remove all soil and grit.
4. Remove any oil or grease by wiping the floor with a clean, lint-free paper towel that has been moistened with rubbing alcohol that contains no lotions. To avoid leaving a residue, wipe the surface completely dry with a lint-free paper towel before the alcohol evaporates.

Graphic Application

Note: Apply the final graphic using a dry method.

1. Place the graphic in position with the liner on. Avoid aligning the edges of the graphic on grout lines of tile.
2. Tape the top edge of the graphic along its full length using 2 inch (52 mm) wide Scotch™ Masking Tape.
3. Turn over the graphic.
4. Begin to strip back the liner near the taped edge. Use one hand to hold the adhesive side of the graphic off the floor. Use a PA-1 plastic applicator (included in the application kit, mentioned above) to adhere the graphic to the floor. Squeegee the front of the graphic, starting at the top edge. Remove the liner as you squeegee the graphic to the floor. Do not smooth the graphics with your hands because this entraps air and results in poor adhesion and appearance.
5. Use loose, easy motions to avoid stretching the media and work outward from the center.
6. Due to the type of adhesive on the media, mistakes made during application of the graphic can be easily corrected. Just pull up a section of the graphic or the entire graphic and reapplying it.

Seaming

Use butt seams when the graphic has more than one panel. Overlapped seams are not recommended or warranted.

Maintenance

Caution

To reduce the risk of tripping, remove and replace the entire graphic if there is any lifting from the floor surface.

Wax the Graphic Soon After Application

If you apply the graphic to a floor that is routinely maintained using buffing or scrubbing equipment, wax the graphic as soon as possible after applying it to the floor. This protects the graphic from premature wear due to floor maintenance. Following the application and waxing, if used, keep the graphic and surrounding floor surface clean and dry for at least four hours; do not scrub or buff the area during that time.

Routine Maintenance

Use routine floor maintenance procedures and equipment to maintain the graphic.

1. Select a floor finish or wax that meets or exceeds the 0.5 Static Coefficient of Friction value using the ASTM D 2047 test procedure.
2. Clean the graphic prior to waxing it.
3. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for applying the floor finish or wax.
4. Do not use buffing equipment over graphics unless they are waxed regularly.

If high-speed, propane-type buffers are used, we recommend that you apply four to six coats of wax to the graphic before buffing it. The multiple coatings of wax reduce the chance of the edge of the graphic wearing prematurely during buffing.

Removal

1. Remove the graphic by lifting one edge and pulling it off at a sharp angle with smooth, even tension. A scraper, such as a putty knife, may be used to lift the edge, if needed.
2. The floor wax under the graphic may also be removed in this process; therefore, the area may have to be rewaxed.

Warranty and Limited Remedy

Refer to the Product Bulletins for the media and overlaminates being used for complete warranty information and other details about these products.

Application and Maintenance For 3M™ Ink Jet Graphics for Floors is a technique for printing a graphic and mounting it. The information contained herein is believed to be reliable, but 3M makes no warranties, express or implied, including but not limited to any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. To the extent allowed by law, 3M shall not be liable for any loss or damages, whether direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential, in any way related to the technique of making a weatherable graphic regardless of the legal theory asserted.

3M Related Literature

Listed below is related 3M technical literature that may be of interest. You may view and print these Bulletins from our website at www.3M.com/imagegraphics, or order them via our Fax-on-Demand (FOD) system. Call one of these phone numbers to order the desired bulletins by the FOD number provided below.

United States or Canada: 800-364-0768
International: 650-556-8417

Subject	Bulletin No.	FOD No.
Product Bulletins		
3M™ Thermal Ink Jet System 8566CP for Graphics for Floors	8566CP	4508
Instruction Bulletins		
Printing and laminating ink jet graphics for floors	5.28	7028



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Health & Safety

Refer to the package label and the Material Safety Data Sheet for health, safety, and handling information on the products referenced in this bulletin. For 3M products, if necessary, you may contact our Toxicology/Product Responsibility Department on 01344 858000.

Important Notice to Purchaser

The 3M products described in this publication are covered by a 3M warranty and limitation of liability.

3M's warranty provides that if 3M finds that goods are defective in material or workmanship they will be replaced or the price refunded at 3M's option but note that 3M does not accept liability for other direct losses (except for personal injury or death) or consequential losses relating to defective products or from information supplied by 3M.

Purchasers and users of 3M products, and not 3M supplying companies, are always solely responsible for deciding on the suitability of the 3M product for their required or intended use.

Technical Assistance

For help on specific questions relating to 3M Commercial Graphics Division Products, contact your local Technical Service Representative.

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