

CLEAR FOCUS PerfxCoat™ Protective Coating

[Product Code: CFPC]
Instructions for Use

Overview

CLEAR FOCUS PerfxCoat™ protects solvent inkjet-printed vinyl window graphics against the effects of chemicals, abrasion and fading caused by UV rays. When applied, PerfxCoat does not reduce the flexibility of the perforated vinyl film and does not materially add to the weight or thickness of the printed graphics.

Configuration

PerfxCoat consists of a protective coating, which is transferred to the graphics during the lamination process, and a polyester carrier that is removed after laminating. The coating and carrier together form a single web of material, with no two-ply construction being evident. The material is self-wound with the coating on the inside.

Limitations

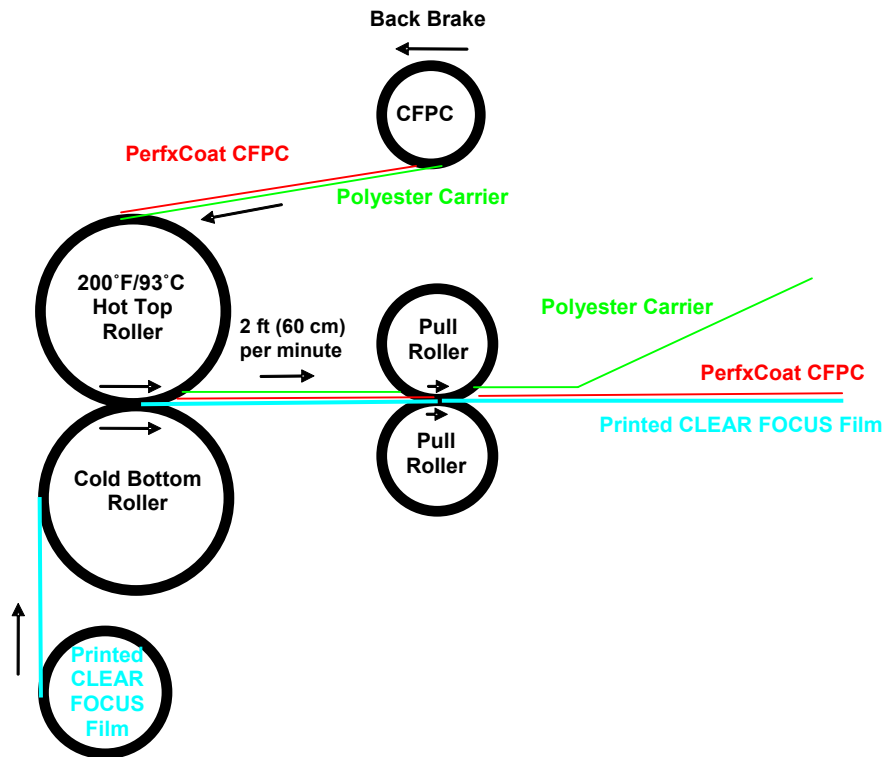
PerfxCoat is compatible with most solvent, eco-solvent and mild-solvent inks, but it is not recommended for graphics printed with aqueous inkjet or UV-cured inks.

Transfer of PerfxCoat Protective Layer onto CLEAR FOCUS Printed Perforated Vinyl - Outline

The protective layer is transferred from the polyester carrier onto the CLEAR FOCUS One Way Vision printed graphics using a hot-roll laminator.

Transfer of PerfxCoat Protective Layer onto CLEAR FOCUS Printed Perforated Vinyl - Detail

The diagram below illustrates a typical hot-roll laminator set-up.



The temperature and running speed necessary to achieve a successful transfer of PerfxCoat protective coating onto the print will vary with the combination of the CLEAR FOCUS perforated window film, inks and laminator used.

In the case of laminators where the bottom roller must be heated instead of the top roller, reverse the configuration shown above, being sure to properly load the PerfxCoat, which is wound with the coating on the inside, so that the coating is transferred to the printed graphics.

A trial to determine the best settings is strongly recommended. These settings can then be used whenever this particular combination is used in the future.

PerfxCoat Protective Coating - Instructions for Use – *continued*

The trial graphic needs to be carefully checked to ensure that the PerfxCoat protective coating has successfully transferred. When removing the carrier, check that there is no coating left where it should have transferred onto the print. Where the coating has transferred, the carrier will appear clear. Any remaining coating will appear slightly "milky" in appearance. Check the adhesion of the coating to the print by using a piece of adhesive tape to attempt to remove the coating from the print. Compare the resistance of the coated print and a piece of uncoated print using a solvent wipe. Wipe the solvent over the entire width of the print to check that there are no areas of unsuccessful transfer caused, for example, by cold spots on the laminator roller.

Important: Use a solvent wipe only on the trial graphic, not on the production graphics. Use of a solvent-based agent on the production window graphics may adversely affect the perforated film's adhesion.

The top roll needs to be heated to a temperature of 200°F (93°C). The bottom roller should be cold. Initial recommended running speed is 2 feet (60 cm) per minute. Higher speeds -- e.g., 3 feet (90 cm) per minute -- may be possible, depending on the laminator model and type of ink. Pressure/nip gap should be set slightly higher/narrower than for laminating self-adhesive vinyl, typically 60 psi (420 kPa).

A strong back-brake can be applied to eliminate any wrinkles in the PerfxCoat material. The PerfxCoat polyester carrier is not prone to stretching. The printed graphics should be a similar width to the PerfxCoat material, or placed on a wider carrier sheet to prevent wrinkles.

Prior to application, ensure that the printed graphics are free from dust and other contaminants. Oils and sweat from hands can interfere with coating adhesion.

The printed graphics should be dry before the PerfxCoat protective coating is applied. Solvents from the print will "pass through" the coating, however, enabling the coating to be applied before the inks are completely cured. The PerfxCoat polyester carrier film can be left in place to protect the laminated print during transport, handling and application. In this case, if the carrier film is to be left on for more than a day or two, the inks must be completely dry and the print fully cured prior to lamination.

Transfer of PerfxCoat Protective Coating - Troubleshooting

Generally, if the transfer is not successful, a lower running speed and/or a higher roller temperature will solve the problem.

Application of Printed Graphics Protected with PerfxCoat Protective Coating

The printed graphics can be mounted on a glass surface immediately after the PerfxCoat coating process.

The PerfxCoat polyester carrier film can be left on the print to provide extra protection during transport and to act as an application tape in the initial stages of application. If the carrier film is to be left on for more than a day or two, the print must be fully cured prior to lamination, as noted above.

PerfxCoat is not recommended for applications where the use of a heat gun is necessary or where the graphics are subjected to a high level of stretching.

Use sensible precautions to avoid scratching the printed graphic during application. Make sure there is no grit under the squeegee blade. A felt squeegee is recommended.

Maintenance of Printed Graphics Protected with PerfxCoat

PerfxCoat provides a good level of protection against chemicals, abrasion and UV rays. Avoid the use of harsh abrasive substances. In particular, do not use solvent-based cleaners as they may break down the perforated window film's adhesion.

It may be possible to clean off graffiti without removing the PerfxCoat coating. Success depends on the nature of the graffiti ink/spray and finding a cleaning agent that will remove the graffiti without removing the PerfxCoat coating or adversely affecting the perforated vinyl film's adhesion to the glass. Pre-testing an unobtrusive area is absolutely essential. Rely on the cleaning agent to dissolve the graffiti; do not use excessive pressure when wiping. Make sure that no cleaning agent is left on the coating.

This document is intended as a source of information, is given without guarantee, and does not constitute a warranty. Purchasers should independently determine, prior to use, the suitability of PerfxCoat for their specific intended purpose.

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