Technical Bulletin 4.16

Application of Mactac StreetRap laminated with StreetLam or FloorGrip

This Technical Bulletin provides detailed information on how to apply Mactac StreetRap laminated with StreetLam or FloorGrip. For specific information on other products' properties, please consult the corresponding technical datasheet.

StreetRap is a product specifically developed for short-term indoor and outdoor applications on difficult surfaces such as outdoor tiles, asphalt and concrete. Its main characteristic is the combination of a conformable vinyl with an advanced high-tack adhesive, which makes the application suitable also for irregular substrates.
StreetLam and FloorGrip are specifically developed for promotional short-term indoor/outdoor applications to protect the graphics against abrasion and provide anti-slip resistance thanks to the thickness and rough surface of the film.

For flat applications StreetRap may be used with FloorGrip laminating film but for corrugated surfaces, StreetRap should be applied in combination with StreetLam.

REQUIRED TOOLS

To ensure proper application of the material, you will need the following tools:

➡ Mactac Fluids to clean the surfaces and remove adhesive residues prior to application.
➡ Soft heat resistant foam or silicone roller to avoid damaging the material.
➡ Heat-gun.
➡ Lint-free cloth for cleaning.

SURFACE PREPARATION

Even if they appear clean, all surfaces should be cleaned prior to application, following the instructions below:

➡ Clean the surface with a brush or a stiff bristle broom to remove dust, sand and gravel.
➡ Clean away potential grease and any other residues with Mactac Cleaner.
➡ Dry the surface using a lint-free cloth, or with a clean paper towel that does not leave any small pieces, before the Mactac Cleaner has had a chance to evaporate.

Prior to application, ensure that all surfaces have been cleaned correctly and are completely dry.
Surfaces must be in reasonably good condition for best application.

APPLICATION METHOD

The products are designed to be applied using the dry application method only.

To ensure proper application of the film, the steps below should be followed :

Small to medium applications:

➡ Place the media upside down on the surface and remove the liner along one edge for 2-3 cm.
➡ Fold the liner backwards, showing a 2-3 cm edge strip of exposed adhesive.
➡ Position the film that is still covered with the liner. Once it is in the right position, press the exposed adhesive onto the substrate.
➡ For corrugated surfaces: to ensure a better bond between the film and the substrate, use your heat-gun to heat the material and start applying pressure with your roller to push the film into the corrugations, working horizontally with overlapping strokes from the centre outwards, to the left and to the right of the film.
➡ For flat surfaces: start applying pressure with your roller working with overlapping strokes from the centre outwards, to the left and to the right of the film.
➡ Make sure to eliminate bubbles between the substrate and the adhesive.
➡ Press the film with your hand while removing the liner at a distance away of approximately 15-20 cm per time.
➡ Repeat the last two indications until the film is completely applied.
➡Once complete go back over all edges with firm pressure to make sure they are all in full contact to the surface.

Large applications (hinge method):

➡ Place the media, with the liner, in the required position on a flat substrate.

➡ Fix the edges firmly with some tape.

➡ Using some tape, make a hinge perpendicular to the largest edge, allowing a maximum of 1m from the closest edge.

➡ Fold the short side of the media on top of the other side. Remove the liner as far as the hinge and then cut the liner off.

➡ Unfold the media back into position, and leave a space between the film and the substrate to avoid unintended adhesion.

➡ Start squeegeeing or rolling firmly from the hinge centre, working with overlapping strokes from the centre outwards to the edges. Work the strokes parallel to the hinge.

➡ Repeat the same actions for the other section of the film.

➡Once complete go back over all edges with firm pressure to make sure they are all in full contact to the surface.

To ensure full adhesion of the film on the substrate, StreetRap with StreetLam/FloorGrip must be treated with care for at least 12 hours after application, so that adhesion can develop properly. Light passage should not cause issues during this 12-hour period, but heavy traffic, machine cleaning and or heavy traffic that creates friction must be avoided.

When the film is applied onto floor tiles, it is important to keep the edges approximately 10mm away from the tile joints to prevent edge lifting.

Never apply the product below the minimum application temperatures as specified in the technical datasheet.

MAINTENANCE

StreetRap laminated with StreetLam or FloorGrip surface must always be kept clean and dry to maintain the film's anti-slip properties and to preserve printed graphics. The film can be cleaned with water and mild detergents with no damage, however the use of cleaning chemicals or mechanical cleaners may affect the overall performance of the film.

Please follow the steps below to ensure proper cleaning and drying of the printed film:

➡ Clean the surface with soapy water, then rinse with clean water (do not leave any traces of soap or water on the surface).

➡ Dry the surface using a lint-free cloth or a clean paper towel. All edges and corners must be dry to prevent edge lifting and water infiltration under the film.

REMOVAL

Please follow the steps below to ensure proper removal of the film:

➡ Peel off one edge or corner and pull the material firmly, keeping an angle of 60° to 90° between the substrate and the film. It is recommended to cut the graphics into smaller pieces to ease the removal.

➡ Any adhesive residues can be removed by using Mactac Remover and wiping with a lint-free towel.

GENERAL REMARKS

➡ To ensure application suitability, always test the proposed construction and cleaning method under actual application and end-use conditions before going into full production.

➡ For outdoor applications, StreetRap laminated with StreetLam or FloorGrip must be applied in dry weather to a dry surface at temperatures above 10°C on days the temperature is expected to rise to at least 18°C. The weather should remain dry for minimum 24h after application to ensure adhesion build-up on the surface. Do not attempt to apply graphics late in the day when the temperature is expected to cool down.

➡ Bridge graphics over seams if needed but do not force the graphic down into the seam.

➡ If possible trim sharp corners to a rounded radius to help minimize edge lifting.

➡ The following factors can adversely affect the adhesion of the self-adhesive product:
- Dust, dirt, grease, oxidation.
- Application below the minimum application temperature.
- Use outside of the service temperature range.

For further information about anti-slip resistance, please refer to the Technical Bulletin "TB 4.7 - Guidelines of Anti-slip resistance Certification Digital Mactac".

For additional information about the StreetRap and StreetLam / FloorGrip durability, please consult the Mactac technical bulletin "TB 7.5 Outdoor Durability of Mactac Graphics - Self-adhesive films".

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