

# DESIGNSTUDIO

BY DECORATIVE FILMS

Custom Design Studio films are made with the professional installer in mind. The following information should be seen as a helpful guide and used in conjunction with prior installation experience to inform proper installation methods and support a successful outcome. Please contact Decorative Films at (888) 657-5224 prior to installation if you have any concerns or questions about this guide.

## BEFORE YOU GET STARTED...

### MAKE A WETTING SOLUTION

Wetting solution is the key to any smooth installation and in place of our recommended mixture has been proven safe for all Design Studio films. Additives or solutions other than our recommendation may void the warranty and should be tested.

Make a solution by adding a max of 8-10 drops (half-second squeeze) of a mild, non-moisturizing dish detergent (Dawn or Ajax; do not use baby shampoo or hand soap) to a 32-oz. spray bottle filled with clean water. Adjust ratio for smaller or larger bottles. Mix well.



### MAKE SURE IT'S SMOOTH

Ensure the surface is completely clean, smooth, and free of dust before installation using standard glass-cleaning procedures. It is recommended to apply Design Studio film to the smooth side rather than the rough side of tempered glass. This can be verified after cleaning by gently running a single-edge razor across both sides of the glass. If a clicking sound is heard, the surface is likely the rough side of the glass or contains debris that should be removed using a glass-safe scrub pad.



### MAKE A WORKSPACE

It is important to keep your environment as clean as possible when installing Design Studio film. It would be impossible to prevent 100% of dust and debris from getting between the film and glass but these steps can help reduce these contaminants:

- Do not run a fan near the film or glass surface during installation.
- Cover floor vents with drop cloths and when possible, turn off the HVAC system.
- Use low-lint towels when cleaning the surface.

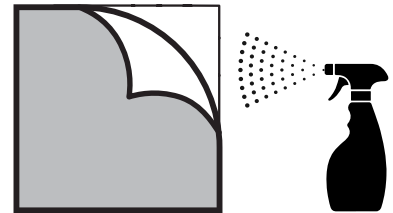
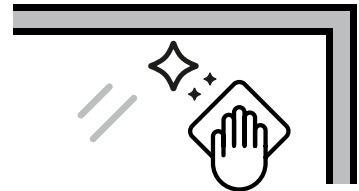


## INSTRUCTIONS

### 1 MEASURE, CUT AND CLEAN

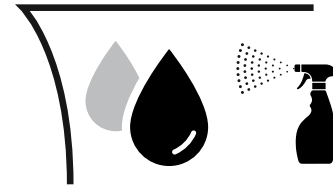
Preference takes precedence when determining how the film is cut. Material may be pre-cut in the shop; if so, be sure to roll the sheets back onto the 3" core and tape them securely. Failing to tape the film back onto the core can result in premature liner separation.

Film Handlers are a popular option when cutting film in the field; however, the same care should be taken to tape the sheets back onto the core if installation will not occur immediately. For paneled projects, refer to the digital proof, which indicates panel size, placement, and bleed allowances. We recommend starting with the center panel of each elevation and working outward to ensure proper alignment.



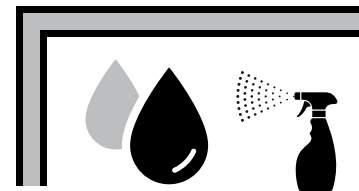
### 2 PEEL AND PREP

Using a two-person team and making sure your fingers are wet, slowly peel back the liner, wetting the adhesive side of the film thoroughly as you peel. If you can't separate the liner from the film, place a piece of tape on both sides of the sheet, fold the tape over to create tabs, and use the tabs to separate the two sides.



### 3 GET IT WET

Thoroughly spray the glass surface AND the adhesive side of the film with the water mixture. Make sure there are no dry spots. The water will allow you to easily apply and reposition the film before you squeegee—any small amounts of remaining water will evaporate as the film fully adheres.

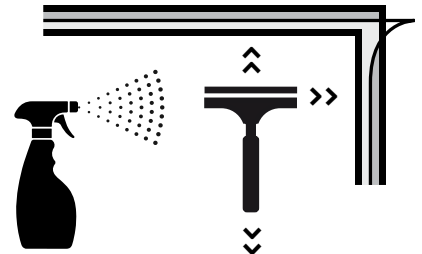


### 4 APPLY AND SMOOTH

We recommend a Bluemax or similar quality squeegee to encourage as much moisture to escape as possible. This is important because small cards or window cleaning squeegees will not provide adequate pressure to the film, resulting in water pockets forming as the film dries.

Place the wet film onto the wet surface and position. The wetting solution should allow it to float and flow easily. Wet the outside of the film with the spray, then press and pull the squeegee firmly over the film surface to remove the wetting solution from beneath the film. Squeegee systematically, from the center moving outward.

Design Studio films should always be tested in an inconspicuous location to ensure that squeegeeing does not cause damage to either printed or unprinted areas. To reduce the risk of scratching, pull the squeegee toward your body rather than pushing it away. As a fail-safe technique, the release liner may also be placed over the face of the film to serve as a protective layer. This method allows for the use of greater pressure without damaging the film.



### 5 TRIM AND FINISH

Once the film is trimmed at least 1/16" away from all frames and gaskets, wrap a hard card in a soft paper towel and use it to push any remaining bubbles and water to the outside edge. The film will completely dry and fully adhere within a few days.

