

# TECHNICAL INFORMATION BULLETIN

## T. I. P. # 10

### Chemically Assisted Vinyl Film Removal

There are three tools that help sign makers remove vinyl graphics from a sign face: heat, abrasive wheels and chemicals. Chemicals used in the early days of vinyl signage (solvents like Naptha and Toluene) are being replaced by combinations of these petrochemical type solvents as well as the introduction of citron based systems.

Four of the removal systems on the market were tested and found useful for removing several grades of Calon brand vinyl film.

Product	Purchasing Source	Location
Orange Peel	Gap	Sun Valley, CA
<i>Q&amp;E Remover</i>	Autotech	Grants Pass, OR
<i>LIFT – X</i>	Supply One	Sydney Australia
<i>Rapid Remover</i>	Rapid Tac	Merlin, OR
<i>Sprayway No. 894</i>	Sprayway, Inc.	Addison, IL
<i>Woodgrain and Stripe Remover</i>	3M	St. Paul, MN
Adhesive and Mastic Remover	Vindotco	Largo FL
XR-1000	Mod Industries	Rolling Meadows, IL

#### Special Notes:

- None of these solvents affected the paint, banner or acrylic surfaces used during qualifying tests – before trying any removers test on a small area to be sure there is no affect on gloss or texture of substrate.
- The films tested were Arlon High Performance and CalPlus with similar results.
- If removing a screen printed graphic be aware that these solvents also remove ink and can cause a mess if one allows the solvent to cascade down the graphic and onto the sign face.
- For best effect cover removal area with plastic sheeting and seal lower edge after applying fluid to slow down evaporation of the solvents and reduce the amount of applications needed to achieve easy removal.
- For faster penetration, especially on reflective film, abrade the surface with rough sandpaper prior to application of fluid.

