

## T.I.P # 35

# Digital Printing Installation

### I. Wall Preparation and Painting

- A. Wall must be smooth, clean and completely dry before painting.
  - 1. Painting over wet or damp drywall compound will retard paint drying and cause inconsistent graphic adhesion.
  - 2. Painting over dusty drywall will impair primer bond to wall surface.
  - 3. Minimum drying time of drywall compound must be 24 hrs. If several passes of drywall compound have been applied the drying time may be extended.
  - 4. The best cleaning method will be a lint free rag dampened with a 50% mix of IPA (Isopropyl Alcohol) and water. Turn the rag after each section to be sure a fresh surface is presented to the drywall. This cleaning mix ensures the wall will be dry enough to paint within an hour.
- B. Paint Primer ICI #3210 is “can ready” and should not be modified in any way.
  - 1. Thinning, extending or accelerating the Primer can affect subsequent graphic adhesion and will void any warranty.
  - 2. Paint is to be applied with short nap foam rollers.
  - 3. A single pass of a paint-loaded roller will be sufficient to cover the drywall.
  - 4. The primer paint coating will require 72 hrs to dry and achieve best adhesion.
  - 5. Drying can be accelerated by 36 hrs with fans and heaters if temperatures can be raised to 80°F.

### II. Installation

- A. A final cleaning pass prior to painting with a 50% mix of water and IPA will insure that the paint is dust free and ready for graphic installation. Once the cleaning mix has dried (20 min) the application may commence.
- B. Graphics are to be applied with plastic squeegee using minimum stretch and maximum pressure.
  - 1. Use overlapping squeegee strokes beginning at the center of the sheet and extending completely over the edge to ensure the margins are well attached.
  - 2. Margins are frequent sites of failure due to poor initial attachment.

### III. Application tape removal

- A. Wait as long as practical to remove application paper as it will give the adhesion bond of the graphic time to build to a sufficient level to remain tightly affixed to the primer while the application tape is being tugged away.
- B. Beginning at one vertical edge, remove as much of the tape as will come away easily.
  - 1. If application tape is very tightly bonded to the graphic, a light spray with tap water will significantly reduce the bond and allow the application tape to come away easily.
  - 2. If a spray bottle isn't handy a water-saturated rag will accomplish the same effect.
  - 3. After spraying or wiping the application tape with water remove it within 2 minutes.

Any questions regarding paint drying, surface cleaning or installation techniques may be directed to Arlon Inc., Technical Service Department at 714-540-2811 or <http://www.arlon.com/graphics>.