

## GRAFITACK SIGN MAKING FILMS GEF SERIES



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### Description

Grafitack GEF series is a soft, environment-friendly Grafityp Ecology Film (GEF), free of chlorine and plasticizers, provided with a water-based pressure-sensitive acrylic adhesive. This adhesive is protected by a high-quality silicone paper.

### Characteristics

- Finish : glossy or matt.
- High opacity.
- Very good resistance against weather influences, with an outdoor life expectancy of 4 to 5 years (on even surfaces, for vertical applications and under Central-European conditions).
- With an adjusted knife pressure, the film can be cut smoothly on all standard cutting plotters.
- Thanks to their special composition, GEF films are ideal for sign making on plexi or polycarbonate.
- Simple cleaning.

### Application

The Grafitack GEF series has been developed especially for outdoor applications (4 to 5 years) on an even surface (e.g. advertising on shop windows, party decorations, season offers, construction pannels, etc...). In addition, the Grafitack GEF series can be used for all possible indoor applications, such as sign making in stores and at trade shows, in warehouses, etc... Unlike pvc, GEF can also be used without any air bubbles on most polycarbonates and polystyrenes.

→ *Other applications in close consultation with Grafityp !*

### Limitations

Limitations are mentioned for each product group separately in the respective technical data sheets, of which you can find the most recent version on the Grafityp website ([www.grafityp.com](http://www.grafityp.com)).

### Warranty

Please consult the General Grafitack & Graficast Warranty Certificate for detailed warranty declarations of the Grafitack sign making films. The most recent version of this warranty certificate will be available on the Grafityp website ([www.grafityp.com](http://www.grafityp.com)).

### Mounting Instructions

Grafityp provide trainings in various levels, enabling the customer to mount these films in a professional and skilled way. A detailed manual on the application of Grafitack films can be found on the Grafityp website ([www.grafityp.com](http://www.grafityp.com)).

### Before mounting

A brief preceding study will save you a lot of time and will guarantee a better end result. Always check the following points :

- What kind of surface do you want to apply the film onto ? Glass, panels, plexi, polycarbonate ?
- How big is the object ?
- Are there any problem zones ?

**GEF is the ideal film for sign making on plexi or polycarbonate.**

Make sure all necessary equipment and materials are ready at hand before starting the job.

Pay attention to your own safety and health. Take into account all safety prescriptions of the suppliers when using electric equipment and products that are necessary to complete the job successfully.

## The preparation

Tip : preferably always use Grafityp films of the same kind in one job. Don't combine cast films with e.g. calendered or non-pvc films, one kind on top of the other. They have different characteristics, which may have a negative effect on the end result.

Cleaning :

- The surface needs to be cleaned thoroughly.
- When everything is completely clean, the complete surface needs to be cleaned once again with isopropanol. Isopropanol removes all detergents that stayed behind on the surface.

Tip : Keep your material, with the application film on top of it, flat and on top of each other, making sure it is deformed as little as possible. If you need to enroll the material, make sure it is enrolled with the application film at the outside.

## The application

Tip : make sure the workshop is dust-free, that the necessary ambient temperature has been reached, and that the job can not be complicated by direct sunlight or by a heat source. Also make sure the floor is completely clean, as the vinyl gets statically loaded during the application process, thus attracting dust very easily.

The vinyls are always applied dry.

Run a couple of tests first. They can save you a lot of work. Apply a test strip and check whether it sticks well enough.

The tools :

- Squeegees
- Cutting knife
- Extension cord
- Sufficient light
- Roll of tape
- Electric current
- Meter, felt-tip, pencil,...

The preparation :

- Place the vinyl (with its backing paper) on the surface. Use paper tape or a pencil crayon to do so.
- Always avoid cutting in the surface. This can cause scratches.
- Apply some reference points where vinyl and surface meet, so you can easily place the vinyl at its exact position again.

The application of the vinyl :

- Remove the backing paper from the film.
- Position the film without folds against the reference points you applied earlier.
- A plastic squeegee is used for rubbing the film if it comes with a mounting film.
- Rub the vinyl smoothly by means of the squeegee. Make sure that the air between the object and the vinyl can always escape.
- A detailed manual for the application of films, provided with an application films, can be found on [www.grafityp.com](http://www.grafityp.com) (Download – Manuals).

Tip : straight deformations are no problem for the GEF film. GEF films are not suited for traditional wrapping, but it can be worked into the indents progressively. We advise you to apply the film over the largest part before the deformation, and then cut the mounting film, so you can easily continue piece by piece.

Tip : never lay a felt squeegee on the floor. Sand will creep into it and you will make scratches on the film the next time you use it.

## The finishing

Small air bubbles will disappear automatically after a certain period of time. Larger air bubbles on even surfaces need to be punctured to allow the air to escape.

## After the job has been completed

Very often, the customer comes back to pick up his "unmissable order" as soon as possible. Nevertheless, it is of utmost importance that the film gets the time to get used to its new surface. Therefore always try to have the job finished 1 day in advance, to avoid sudden temperature changes.

## Cleaning and maintenance

Once the film has reached its optimal adhesive strength, the surface can be cleaned under normal conditions. Please take the following guidelines into consideration :

- Don't use any scouring cleaning agents.
- Don't use any cleaning agents that contain strong solvents or alcohol.
- Use cleaning agents with a pH value between 3 and 11.
- Brushes of a car wash can leave behind scratches on the film.

Dirt that is hard to remove, such as dead insects, resin, etc... needs to be removed immediately. The best result is achieved with warm water and a soapy solution. Don't use any aggressive or scouring cleaning agents.

## Removal

Grafitack GEF films can be removed without leaving behind any glue by using a heat gun, on condition that the life span mentioned has not expired yet. After that period of time, it will no longer be possible to remove larger pieces of the films.

If the life span of the film has expired, the adhesive can be removed with isopropanol.

If the film is removed from an underlying film, it is possible that the underlying film gets damaged.

## Product range

Grafitack GEF films are available in the following colours :

Reference	Colour (glossy)
GEF01	White glossy
GEF05	Ivory glossy
GEF11	Sulphure yellow glossy
GEF13	Shell yellow glossy
GEF15	Yellow glossy
GEF17	Gold yellow glossy
GEF22	Pastel orange glossy
GEF25	Light orange glossy
GEF26	Orange glossy
GEF31	Orange red glossy
GEF33	Light red glossy
GEF35	Red glossy
GEF37	Dark red glossy
GEF38	Deep red glossy
GEF40	Light blue glossy
GEF42	Azure blue glossy
GEF44	Traffic blue glossy
GEF46	Brilliant blue glossy
GEF48	Royal blue glossy
GEF49	Dark blue glossy
GEF50	Turquoise glossy
GEF52	Lemon green glossy
GEF53	Yellow green glossy
GEF54	Grass green glossy
GEF55	Light green glossy
GEF56	Medium green glossy

Reference	Colour (matt)
GEFM01	White matt
GEFM05	Ivory matt
GEFM11	Sulphure yellow matt
GEFM13	Shell yellow matt
GEFM15	Yellow matt
GEFM17	Gold yellow matt
GEFM22	Pastel orange matt
GEFM25	Light orange matt
GEFM26	Orange matt
GEFM31	Orange red matt
GEFM33	Light red matt
GEFM35	Red matt
GEFM37	Dark red matt
GEFM38	Deep red matt
GEFM40	Light blue matt
GEFM42	Azure blue matt
GEFM44	Traffic blue matt
GEFM46	Brilliant blue matt
GEFM48	Royal blue matt
GEFM49	Dark blue matt
GEFM50	Turquoise matt
GEFM52	Lemon green matt
GEFM53	Yellow green matt
GEFM54	Grass green matt
GEFM55	Light green matt
GEFM56	Medium green matt

GEF57	Green glossy
GEF59	Dark green glossy
GEF63	Light brown glossy
GEF66	Dark brown glossy
GEF73	Light grey glossy
GEF76	Medium grey glossy
GEF77	Grey glossy
GEF80	Black glossy
GEF90	Silver glossy

GEFM57	Green matt
GEFM59	Dark green matt
GEFM63	Light brown matt
GEFM66	Dark brown matt
GEFM73	Light grey matt
GEFM76	Medium grey matt
GEFM77	Grey matt
GEFM80	Black matt
GEFM90	Silver matt
GEFM92	Gold matt

\* White adhesive.

## Product Characteristics

A detailed overview of the product characteristics can be found on the respective technical data sheets, of which you can always find the most recent version on the Grafityp website ([www.grafityp.com](http://www.grafityp.com)).

## Storage Instructions

All Grafitack materials always need to be stored in their original packing and with the original protection flanges (and preferably stored vertically).

In order to avoid any loss of quality, the Grafitack materials should also be stored in suitable conditions, that is at a temperature between 10 and 20°C and a relative humidity of 50 %.

Under these conditions the Grafitack materials can be stored up to two years.

## Remarks

- Overlaps on GEF (pvc on GEF and/or GEF on GEF) can lead to lower adhesive strength values.
- As the colour of the film can differ slightly for each production run, we advise you not to use films with different batch numbers in one single and critical job. The number to be taken into consideration for this purpose consists of the first 5 number of the 7-digit batch number.
- The backing paper of the GEF series is sensitive to water, and shall in no case be exposed to humidity. After getting in contact with water, the backing paper may tear or split. That is why we advise you to remove the backing paper completely if you wish to apply the GEF films wet.
- After about one and a half tot wo years, the glossy GEF films can get a matting effect. By the end of the GEF film's life span, small cracks can appear in the polymeric layer, as a result of which the film can no longer be removed in one piece.
- If the black GEF films are applied wet on glass, the adhesive may in some cases turn white. This phenomenon will disappear automatically as soon as the adhesive is completely dry.

## Important

The information mentioned in this product bulletin is based upon tests that were executed by Grafityp and that we consider to be reliable. The information always represents an average, a minimum or a maximum value, and should be considered as such. It is only given for your information, and does not give any guarantee. Grafityp cannot be held responsible for any damage, either direct or indirect, resulting from the use of the film. It is up to the user to decide whether or not the product is suited for his particular application.

## Technical Service

If you have any technical questions with regard to the Grafitack films you can always contact our technical department :

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