

Fitting guide

Your lettering arrives cut, weeded and on application tape, so every letter stays exactly where it was on your proof. Give yourself an hour, follow these steps and it will look like a pro fitted it.

Read it all once before you start.



What you'll need



- Isopropyl alcohol (IPA) in a spray bottle, and a lint-free cloth
- Masking tape
- A tape measure and a spirit level, or a long straight edge
- A squeegee, or a credit card wrapped in a soft cloth
- A sharp craft knife, for door gaps and trimming
- A second pair of hands for anything wider than your arms

Pick your moment

Fit above 10C, on a dry day or in a garage, out of direct sun and wind. Cold vinyl doesn't grab, and a hot panel makes it grab too soon.

If the van has just been washed, let it dry completely, seams and all. Fresh paint needs a few weeks to cure before vinyl goes on.

Check the fit

Hold each piece up with its backing on. It should sit on a flat area with a little room to spare, inside any pressed recess.

Keep clear of handles, trims, rubbing strips, rivets and deep curves. Where a piece has to cross a door gap, that's fine: you'll cut it at step 6.

Which pieces go where

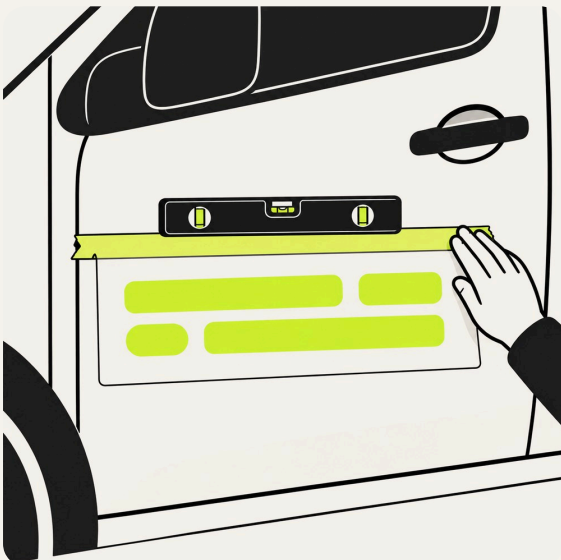
Your approved proof shows where every piece goes. Fit one piece at a time, finishing each before you start the next, and use the proof to check spacing from the window line or a body crease.

**1**

Clean the panel

Wash off any dirt, then wipe the area with isopropyl alcohol on a lint-free cloth to strip wax, polish and grease. Let it flash off for a minute.

Don't use household cleaners, glass cleaner or anything with silicone. They leave a film the adhesive can't grip.

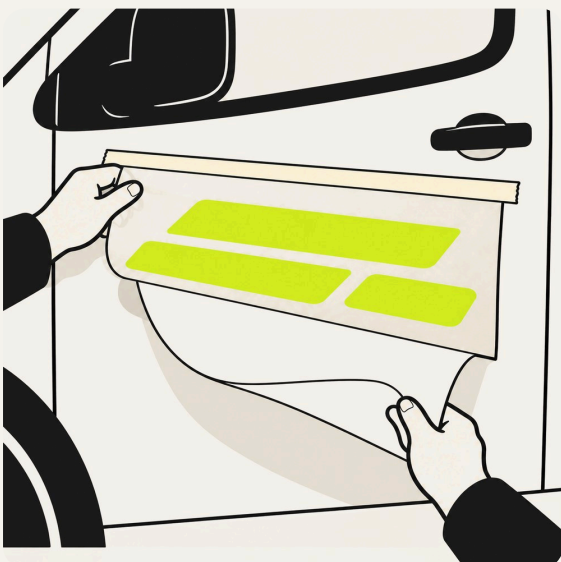
**2**

Position and hinge it

Hold the piece in place with its backing still on. Measure from a fixed line, like the bottom of the window or a body crease, so it sits level. Don't trust your eye or the ground: vans are rarely parked flat.

When you're happy, run a long strip of masking tape across the top edge, half on the sheet and half on the van, so it hangs like a hinge.

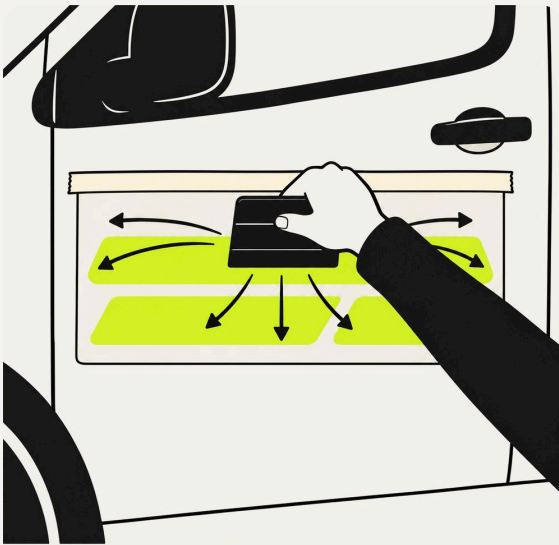
Step back and look from a few metres away. Now is the time to move it, not later.

**3**

Peel the backing

Lift the sheet up on its hinge and peel the backing paper away, keeping the vinyl on the application tape. If a letter stays on the backing, lay it back down, rub over it and try again.

Let the sheet fall back towards the panel without letting it touch.

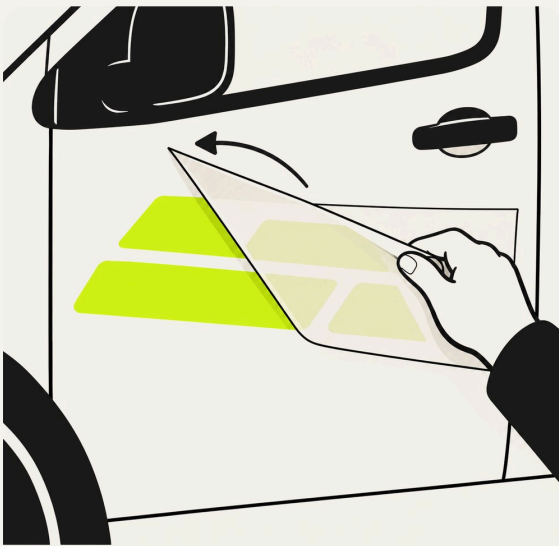


4

Squeegee from the middle

Start at the top in the middle and squeegee outwards and downwards in firm, overlapping strokes, pushing air to the nearest edge. Hold the bottom of the sheet away from the van with your other hand until the squeegee reaches it.

Wide pieces: for anything over about a metre, put the hinge down the middle instead and fit one half at a time.

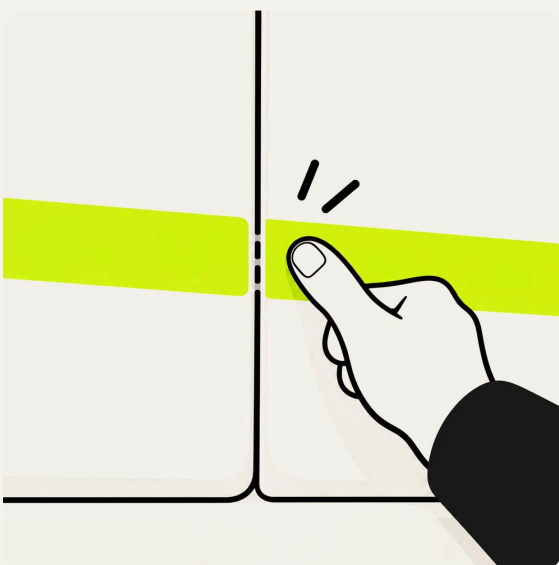


5

Remove the application tape

Go over everything once more, then peel the tape back on itself, slowly, close to the panel and at a sharp angle. If a letter starts to lift, lay the tape back down, press that letter again and carry on more slowly.

Small bubbles usually go on their own within a few days in the sun. A stubborn one can be pricked with a pin and pressed flat.



6

Trim and press the edges

Where a piece crosses a door gap, cut along the gap with a sharp knife so the doors open freely, then press both cut ends down firmly. Run a thumb or the squeegee along every edge one last time.

Printed stickers and logos

Printed pieces are laminated, so they're a little stiffer than lettering. Clean the panel as in step 1.

If yours has no application tape, peel back an inch of the backing along one edge, place that edge, then squeegee across while you pull the rest of the backing away from underneath.

Reflective chevrons

Reflective sheet is thicker again. Fit it somewhere warm, peel the backing a short section at a time and press hard, working from the top down.

Trim around handles, locks and plate recesses once it's down, then press every edge twice. Edges are where it lifts first.



Aftercare

- Leave it 48 hours before washing, so the adhesive can settle.
- Hand washing is kindest. Keep pressure washer jets at least 30cm away and never aim them at an edge.
- No solvent cleaners, polish or wax on the vinyl itself.

Taking it off later

Warm the vinyl with a hairdryer or a heat gun on low and peel it back slowly at a sharp angle. Any adhesive left behind comes off with isopropyl alcohol.

Stuck halfway?

Stop where you are and send us a photo. We'll talk you through it.

07712 096320
hello@offkut.co.uk