

## Helpful Tips

For graphical applications, the ground can be one of the most challenging surfaces. To achieve ideal results, it is extremely important to understand the potential issues and to follow the corresponding instructions. We thank you for taking the time to read these suggestion as it can help you to avoid problems or to take the appropriate measures to resolve any issues, quickly, cost effectively, and successfully. This information may assist you in both selecting the right product for your application as well to assist in a successful application.

### General advice

Because every surface is different Asphalt offers a wide variety of product solutions. Your success and satisfaction is what we strive for. Perfect results are our goal, and in order to achieve the best possible results - we need to work together. The following information is based on our knowledge and application experience and may vary slightly from out typical application instructions for each circumstance.

- There are typically two distinct product requirements. The material must bond well to the floor and must not peel up... as well as remove properly when desired. A choice had to be made between these requirements, and it was decided the bond was most critical for ground graphics. This results in some special measures when removing the material.
- Before a material is chosen, the floor has to be analyzed. If there is any doubt and time allows, apply a small sample in a covered place or corner. Leave the material applied for at least 72h and then remove it (This recommendation is primarily for indoor applications).
- In any case and on every surface, it is important you pay attention to the following:
  - The floor must be absolutely dry. This means that not only the surface be dry, but also the moisture and humidity beneath the surface. After the product is applied, this trapped moisture can rise and lead to potential adhesion issues.
  - The surface must be free from loose particles that may get between the adhesive and bonding surface. (sweep away with a broom or high pressure air).
  - The surface has to be free from grease, oil stains, and other staining that could inhibit the adhesive performance.
  - The floor temperature must be at least 10° C (50F).
- Pay extra attention to polished surfaces such as marble floors. These surfaces are typically the most sensitive and are not suited for any adhesive. Despite the surfaces being polished, they are very porous and absorb a portion of the adhesive. After removal, there is the potential for undesirable discoloration and adhesive residue. After a period of time this will disappear, but this can take a quiet a long time. Please pay special attention in these situations and inform your customer regarding the possible risks.

- The smoother the application surface, the more difficult it will be to remove our products as the adhesives we use are designed for strong bonds. Please pay attention to the following detailed descriptions.

## **ASPHALTWALK**

Our products are designed for rough outdoor surfaces. The adhesive requires a minimal floor temperature of 10° C (50F) for the application process. The surface must be completely dry and free from oil residues (See additional information under “General advice”).

### **Application**

- Please keep in mind that using the optimal tools will yield the best results.
- For applications on smooth surfaces such as asphalt or concrete, it is advised to use an applicator roller with hard to medium-hard rubber (you may use 2 different hardnesses). You may start with a soft roller or even make the initial application by hand (especially on floors with peaks and valleys) Apply the product like a self-adhesive film. After the initial adhesion, if possible, use a harder roller and ensure that the surface of the film conforms to the texture of the ground. The film must be firmly anchored and not show large air bubbles or entrapment. After the application, it may also be beneficial to tap the edges with a rubber hammer or use the roller to ensure the edges are firmly secure. Ensuring the edges of the graphic are sealed will help avoid the ingress of water beneath the film.
- For rougher surfaces like cobblestone, you may need to apply AsphaltWalk with your thumb or a soft tool focusing on ensuring the spaces or gaps are applied first and moving to the smoother surfaces.
- In cases where the floor is too cold or wet, we recommend the use of a gas torch or a hot air blower to dry and warm the surface prior to applying the film. In case of steady rain, you can use a party tent to cover the surface and avoid flowing water. The longer the surfaces is protected, the better is your results will be.
- Important – do not apply AsphaltWalk immediately following the use of a torch or blower. Allow the surface cool down after it has been heated so to not damage the coating while applying the product. It is important to never use a heat source directly on the film as you risk potentially damaging the surface. AsphaltWalk is heat resistant under normal solar irradiation, as well as in hot countries.
- If there are oil or grease stains in the desired location for the application, cleaning with a degreaser may help remove the stains. If a degreaser does not work, we recommend the use of a primer. This can be especially important in applications in parking spaces or gas stations. Primers are available in specialized trade stores.
- The surface of AsphaltWalk is basically exposed and not covered by an overlamine. This can have an effect on the durability of the film. Please take the following into consideration:
  - The choice in print color is crucial – ask your ink supplier for the best solution for this application. We recommend UVC printing only.
  - Road salts and acids as well as sand and pebbles can reduce the durability of the film.
  - It is very important to avoid turning the steering wheel of a standing car or truck directly on AsphaltWalk. If you intend to place an image in a parking lot, we advise it is placed to

minimize or avoid contact with wheels and tires (center or front of parking space rather than covering the entirety).

- It's characteristic of the product to show some visible wear after a few days but the wear will not progress at this pace. Up close, the surface of AsphaltWalk resembles a mountain range with peaks and valleys (though the peaks are glass beads). Upon initial contact with shoes or tires, the peaks will see the first contact and thus, show the initial wear. Once this wear has occurred, the progression of the wear will be significantly slower as the remainder of the graphic is protected by these peaks.
- Removing of the film is typically relatively easy and does not present any issues. If you are experiencing issues, please try the following:
  - Warm the surface to soften the adhesive. This resolves any issues in 99% of all cases.
  - Lift the edge with putty knife or spreader then remove the film at an angle of nearly 180° (peel the product back on itself).
  - With surfaces that are not sensitive to heat, the adhesive can be burned with a torch. The remaining aluminum film can be removed easily after the adhesive has been compromised. Please use caution to avoid damages to the road surface.

## **SPORTWALK**

SportWalk is a product that is recommended for outdoor use. It is well suited for short-term applications on smoother surfaces but not recommended for applications on polished surfaces or polished marble.

The application is simple and requires an appropriately sized rubber roller. Simply remove the protective liner and ensure that the surface is pressed on carefully.

SportWalk has good mechanical abrasion characteristics, but is also dependent on the printing method (we strongly recommend UVC inks). As in the case of the AsphaltWalk, the surface is not generally protected after printing with a coating or overlaminated which can lead to wear through stressful usage. To enhance the mechanical abrasion resistance, EasyProtect or any other clear varnish may be used to protect the graphic.

## **CATWALK**

CatWalk is a vinyl film for indoor areas and used for relatively short to mid-term applications. This product utilizes a support system that consists of double sided PET tape. This allows for much better removability in applications on smoother surfaces.

When removing CatWalk, please ensure the film is removed at a very aggressive angle and peel the graphic back on itself. If adhesive residue is visible, stop the removal immediately and try removing the graphic from a different corner. If after the graphic is removed there is still some residue, try using the adhesive on the back of the film to "pick" off the residue (similar to removing gum from an article of clothing). If this is still unsuccessful, a blade may be used to remove any remaining residue. To further avoid residue while removing the film, the film may be warmed during the removal process. This makes the adhesive softer and helps you to remove it clean and easy.

The best way to remove adhesive residues is to use a simple citrus cleaner. Please be aware that some of these cleaners can be aggressive and damage the floor. Also, some alcohol containing cleaners are flammable, so please exercise caution when using any flammable products and comply with the necessary safety measures.

## **CLEARWALK**

This product uses a very aggressive adhesive system. We recommend completing a trial prior to a conducting a complete application. The product uses the same adhesive as our SportWalk while having the same surface as the Catwalk.

## **TEXWALK**

TexWalk is an indoor and outdoor product that can generally be applied on every surface. It is very simple to apply and remove. Please pay special attention to applications on polished natural stone floors as the floor can absorb the adhesive and lead to discoloration. It has been successfully and commonly applied on smooth surfaces like ceramic tiles. In addition to ground applications, this product can also be applied on walls, doors, and numerous other surfaces.

This information is based on our experience, which we either made by ourselves or which we received from our most important customers. As stated at the beginning – every floor is different and behaves different – we recommend whenever possible to start with a small trial. Your distribution partner or Asphalt Art is ready to support you. All information, which we note here, are currently completed and modified to the newest experiences. No legal responsibility can be claimed. Eine rechtliche Verantwortung aus diesen Aussagen kann daraus nicht abgeleitet werden. Basically count our general delivery terms and out technical data sheets.

**Version March 2018**