Basic Steps for Weeding Vinyl

The process of making a vinyl sticker starts by taking a piece of vinyl sticker material and running it through a plotter, which then cuts out your design. Once the design is cut, the next step is to remove all of the vinyl you don't want for the sticker, a process known as "weeding." This process can be tedious, depending on the complexity of the design, but it is necessary to get a quality finished product.

Instructions

1. If not already done with the cutting machine, cut some "weeding lines" around your letters or design. These will be lines cut with an X-Acto or utility knife, cutting ONLY through the vinyl, and not all the way through the backing paper. These cut lines will allow you to weed smaller sections at a time, making the process easier.
2. Using a weeding tool, lift a corner of the vinyl away from the backing paper so you can grip the vinyl with your hand. Work from right to left if working with lettering, as most letters are open on the right side, and this will make the weeding process easier.
3. Peel back the outside layer of vinyl from the backing, pulling the vinyl at a sharp angle to the paper, and making sure the vinyl doesn't catch on any portions of the design you need to keep. It may be necessary to hold down parts of the design with a tweezers or finger to ensure it does not lift up with the excess vinyl. Discard the old vinyl.
4. Insert the tip of weeding tool into the centers of any designs that need to be removed, such as the middle of the letter O, or the triangle in the center of the letter A. Pull out the vinyl with the tool, and use the tweezers if necessary. Continue until the design is all that's left on the paper backing.

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