



# FLIGHTLINE GRAPHICS

**Paint Masks - Stencils - Dry Rub Decals - Waterslides**

Telephone: +44(0)7872 181119 (mobile)  
Website: <http://www.flightlinegraphics.com>  
email: [sales@flightlinegraphics.com](mailto:sales@flightlinegraphics.com)

## Waterslide Decal Application

Great care has gone into selecting the best materials to produce your waterslide decals. It is important to store your decals in the protective envelope they were supplied in and out of direct sunlight and where they can be exposed to rapid changes in temperature. This way you are assured the decals will remain in pristine condition when you come to use them.

To apply the decals follow these simple steps.

1. Ensure the surfaces you plan to apply the decal to is clean and dry before you start.
2. Carefully cut the individual waterslides from the sheet. Cut as close to the markings as practical to do so to reduce excess material. Do so using a new sharp scalpel blade on a hard surface such as glass or a good quality cutting mat. Note: the glass will scratch so don't use a special piece! Guillotines in good condition are also suitable. Do not use scissors as they can cause a small "burred" edge on the film which will be visible when the decal is applied.
3. In a shallow dish or bowl soak the decal in water at room temperature for about 10 seconds before retrieving and putting to the side of the dish out of the water. Wait a further 30 seconds or so. This allows the water that has been adsorbed in the initial soaking to slowly work on the release agents on the paper without washing away the adhesive behind the decal film. Prolonged soaking will wash away the adhesive reducing the durability of the decal as a consequence.
4. Test the film is slipping by rubbing with your finger carefully. When the decal is showing movement, transfer the decal over to the application area and offer one end of the decal to the surface of the model as close to where it is required. Rest a finger on the waterslide material and pull the paper away from underneath allowing the decal to float onto the surface. Adjust the position by using your finger while avoiding contact with finger nails as you can scratch the print easily. **DO NOT TRY TO PUSH THE DECAL OFF THE PAPER AS IT WILL WRINCLE POTENTIALLY DAMAGING THE DECAL.**

You may find it helpful to have the surface slightly wet before application.

5. Move the decal as little as possible when on the model as this can also wash away the adhesive from the film particularly on the edges where it is needed! Dab the decals with absorbent cloth to remove the excess water. Cotton buds are useful for helping position your decals. Allow to dry for 72 hrs.
6. It is essential to seal the waterslides with a clear coat to protect the decals. Please be warned **DO NOT JUST SPRAY ANY CLEAR COAT OVER THE DECALS AS IT IS LIKELY YOU WILL DAMAGE THE DECALS** with a solvent reaction. Using water based paints does not mean you will not get a reaction so please check!

It is best to test the compatibility of your paints with the waterslide material by cutting a small section of film (it does not need to have any print) and applying it to a test surface. Make sure it is allowed to dry for at least the prescribed 72 hrs before spraying with the finest mist you can achieve with your spray equipment. Whatever you use it is essential to build several of these mist coats, allow to dry fully, before spraying the entire model.

One option that works well is to seal the decals with Tamiya Clear acrylic paint # X-22. Allow this to dry overnight before spraying the main clear coat over the entire model.

These waterslides are suitable for use with Micro-SOL<sup>®</sup> and Micro-SET<sup>®</sup> products.

Flightline Graphics