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Stylus guide to ensuring you select the most suitable tape for your application for testing

What is low surface energy?

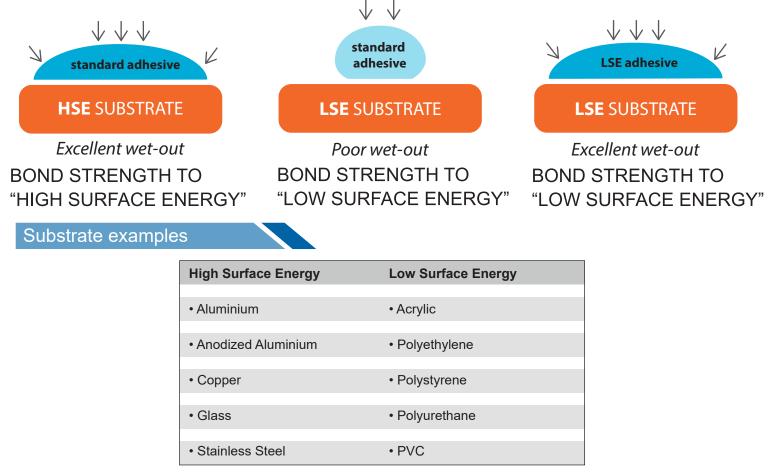
Understanding the relationship between your substrate/s and the tape being applied to is critcal in ensuring the best performance as each persons requirements are unique to them so testing and selection is critical to obtain peak performance.

All substrates exhibit different levels of what is commonly referred to as "surface energy".

So what is "surface energy" when it comes to adhesive tapes? It's the substrates ability to allow the tapes adhesive to bond (wet out) to the surface.

Simply put: the higher the substrates surface energy the easier it is for the tape to adhere to the object ensuring a high contact surface area of bond resulting in higher level of tape performance.

The 3 diagrams below demonstrate an adhesive's ability to stick to a surface. With standard adhesives the performance to high surface energy (HSE) is excellent. For standard adhesives with low surface energy (LSE) the performance is poor. For low surface energy (LSE) substrates we recommend application of our LSE adhesive range to ensure excellent bond strength.





RECOMMENDED CLEANING & INSTALLATION PROCEDURES

* STEP 1 - SURFACE EVALUATION:

There are numerous types of adhesive tapes, some suited to a variety of uses and others for more specialised individual applications. A thorough evaluation is recommended when bonding to any surface. Porous surfaces such as wood, concrete & brick should be <u>smooth</u> & <u>sealed</u> with an appropriate sealer prior to application.

All adhesive tapes should only be applied to clean & dry surfaces. There are various methods of preparation depending on the surface and/or application. For technical advice we recommend you speak with our local sales office.

Surfaces must be free of:

Any Contaminants Moisture & Chemical Residue Dust, Fibres, Concrete Powders, Sand, Soil & Dirt Particles O.E.M. Cleaners, Grease, Wax, Detergent & Release agents on plastic profiles/extrusions etc Flaking Paint & Corrosion

***STEP 2 - CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS:**

The surface being applied to should be prepared with an appropriate cleaning solution, preferably IPA (Isopropanol) using a clean lint-free wiping cloth or disposable wipe (never re-cycled rags). Renew cleaning cloths regularly. (Applications involving paper, board, fabric etc do not require IPA cleaning)

This should be performed immediately prior to application of adhesive tape.

When using any cleaning solutions it is recommended to test a small area to ensure there is no reaction/discolouration with the surface.

It is important to note that all painted/sealed surfaces should be completely dry/cured. (Refer to manufactures recommendations).

***STEP 3 - INSTALLATION PROCESS:**

Once the surface has been adequately prepared tape application can commence. Care should be taken to avoid finger contact with adhesive. The portion of tape held by your fingers should overlap the area being applied to & trimmed, as finger contact with any adhesive tape will significantly reduce its performance.

Both single & double sided tapes require sufficient rub down pressure to ensure 100% surface contact. Where double sided tapes are being used pressure must be re-applied after both surfaces have been brought together.

Surface temperature should be above 10°C at time of application. (Use some heat if necessary - Hair Dryer, Fan Heater etc.).

NB. Storage – Ensure all tapes are stored in clean/dry condition & returned to the protective bag between use.

SPECIAL NOTE: Adhesive Bond Strength will improve with time varying from a few hours to 2-3 days depending on the adhesive tape product used & climactic conditions.



Recommended Storage Conditions

Product must be kept in its original box and packaging in a dry atmosphere away from direct sunlight. The optimal storage conditions for this product is between 18°C - 22°C with a relative humidity of 40% - 50%.

Material Safety Data Sheet

MSDS can be downloaded from Stylus Tapes website www.stylustapes.com.au

Recommended Cleaning & Installation Procedures

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