

# Applying Vinyl Lettering on a Painted Life Ring

## Supplies You Will Need

Pre-Sol Solvent  
Sharp Knife  
Straight Pin  
Squeegee  
Low Friction Sleeve or a piece of transfer tape  
Vinyl Lettering  
Prep-Sol Solvent

Du Pont Prep-Sol Solvent is available from automotive paint supply stores. In a pinch you can use Simple Green but Prep-Sol really works better.

## Step 1: Surface Preparation

Make sure that the paint is well cured before starting. A minimum of one week is required. Clean the painted surface of the life ring with Prep-Sol to eliminate all dirt and grease. Dry the surface with a lint-free cloth before the solvent evaporates.

## Step 2: Install the lettering

1. Separate the port from the vessel name with a sharp knife or razor blade. We use a single edge razor blade held in a box knife.
2. Remove the backing from the lettering. The lettering will stick to the transfer tape. If it does not, try squeegeeing the transfer tape first to make sure that the lettering really sticks.
3. Line up your lettering that is stuck to the transfer tape. If you don't get it in just the right spot you can pull the lettering up at this time. Give it a quick jerk!
4. Once you get the lettering in the right spot, squeegee it down. Work with small strokes and don't be afraid to apply pressure.
5. Gently remove the transfer tape by pulling it back along itself. Do not try to pull up at a 90 degree angle since this tends to lift the lettering. If removal is difficult, spray the transfer tape with water.
6. Install the low friction sleeve on your squeegee, and squeegee the lettering down. This requires a fair amount of force. The better your job here, the longer the lettering will last.
7. Pop any trapped air bubbles with the straight pin and force the vinyl down to the life ring with your thumbnail. If necessary, squeegee once again with the low friction sleeve.

