

# XBOX SKIN INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

This document explains how to correctly install an Xbox skin. It is very important that you read these instructions thoroughly before attempting installation of your new skin.

As with all decal installations, the cleanliness of the surface is crucial to obtaining maximum performance from your decal.

## Supplies Needed:

- Installation instructions
- Xbox™ game system
- Soft, lint-free cloth
- Rubbing alcohol
- Pair of scissors
- Skin kit from DansDecals.com (see "About Your Skin Kit" at right)
- Plastic squeegee (or a flat, rigid piece of plastic, like a credit card)
- A small hair dryer

Start by gathering all of the supplies listed above on a clean, flat surface in a well-lit area such as a kitchen table. Make sure your Xbox is unplugged and that no controllers or devices are plugged into any of the ports.

## About Your Skin Kit:

The number of pieces included with your skin kit varies depending on the kit you purchased.

There are 3 layers to your decal. The top layer is the transfer tape layer. It has a clear, rough finish and is used to correctly position and apply the decal. This layer is removed after the decal has been applied. The middle layer is the decal/skin itself and the bottom layer is the paper release backing.

\*\*\* If you've ordered a skin kit and some of the pieces look like they have a different finish than the others, this is because some of the pieces do not have transfer tape and some do. Certain skins, like those made for controllers, do not require transfer tape to install and therefore do not come with transfer tape on them.

Before going any further, read these instructions carefully, from start to finish.

We can not stress enough the importance of taking your time and not rushing - we know you're anxious to get your new skin installed, but you'll be much happier if it is applied correctly. A good understanding of what you will be doing, along with some patience and a steady hand will help insure that you get the best installation possible of your new skin. The most common problems experienced with vinyl decals (bubbles, wrinkles, poor adhesion, etc.) can be avoided entirely by a proper application.

## Surface Preparation:

Surface preparation is crucial. The surface must be cleaned to remove all dirt, dust particles, grime & oils, including fingerprints. If the surface is not properly cleaned the skin may not adhere well. To clean the surface pour some rubbing alcohol on a soft cloth and wipe down the areas where the skin is to be installed. Be sure the cloth you use is lint-free and doesn't leave any fibers on the surface as they may show up under your skin.

**Note:** Because we are not in control of the application of the decals that we sell we can not and do not guarantee them after they have been removed from their protective backing.

## Skin Layout & Application:

The next step is to do a mock layout to see where each piece goes. Depending on the kit you purchased, some of the pieces may need to be cut apart before they are applied. You'll be able to determine if any cuts are needed when you hold the pieces up in place. Use a pair of scissors to make any necessary cuts now.

It's time to start applying the pieces. Start with smaller front pieces and save the large X for last, it's the hardest piece to install. Take one of the front pieces and peel back the white paper release layer. The skin layer should stay attached to the clear transfer tape layer. If it does not, lay them flat on the table and squeegee them back together and then try again. Once the paper backing layer is removed, position the skin & transfer layer *without allowing it to touch* (see Note). Once it's properly aligned, press it down in the center and then, applying pressure, work your way out from the middle towards the edges. Use the squeegee to apply more pressure to firmly set the skin. Leave the clear transfer tape on for now.

**Note:** It is important that you not let the skin touch the surface until it is in the exact position you want it. Some skins (especially the chromes) are very unforgiving if you try repositioning them. Take your time and get it right the first time.

Repeat this process with the other pieces on the front of the Xbox, being careful to precisely align each piece. When properly installed, each piece will fit evenly and will have an equal space around all edges. Once all of the front pieces have been installed,

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use a hair dryer on low heat setting to gently heat the installed pieces. Get them just warm enough to help the adhesive bond, not too hot to touch or melt the skin. While they're warm, once again use the squeegee to press them firmly in place.

Now, take a 10 minute break to allow the installed pieces to cool. After the pieces have cooled to room temperature, slowing begin peeling off the clear transfer tape, one piece at a time. Peel the tape backwards, over itself at about a 45 degree angle. If the skin tries to come off with it, stop, apply heat, press it down firmly and let it cool for 10 minutes. Then try again using one hand to apply pressure to the problem area while peeling the tape off.

Now that the front of the Xbox is done, it's on to the most difficult piece: the X.

Take a minute to wipe down the top of the Xbox again with the cloth and rubbing alcohol to insure it is clean (you most likely left fingerprints on it while installing the front pieces). Pay close attention to make sure no dirt or cloth fibers are on left on the surface as they may show up under the installed skin.

Installing the X is much easier with an extra set of hands to help. Carefully remove the paper backing and very patiently position the piece above your Xbox without letting it touch. It is easiest to align the center and the inside points but you'll also want to pay attention to where the outside corners are positioned. Once aligned, press down the center and then begin working your way outwards toward the edges, applying pressure and squeegeeing uniformly so as to not allow any air to be trapped under the skin. We suggest handling one section at a time. It also works well to pull each corner outwards while squeegeeing it down. This helps to prevent compressions in the vinyl which could cause areas of the skin to lift up later on down the road.

Now that you've successfully squeegeed the X, get out the hair dryer and repeat the steps you did on the front of the Xbox: heat the skin, squeegee it with firm pressure, let it cool, then peel off the clear transfer tape. Remember to peel the transfer tape backwards, over itself, and not straight up.

If there are any small air bubbles in your skin they will usually disappear over the next few days. Any air bubbles that do not dissipate can be punctured with a pin to release the air (although this will leave a small puncture hole).

#### Cleaning Your Skin:

Always unplug your Xbox before cleaning your skin. The skin can be cleaned with non-abrasive soaps and water. Glass cleaners work well. Avoid solvents and thinners as they can have unpredictable results. Use a soft cloth (a rough, abrasive cloth may scratch the skin) and apply the cleaner to the rag, then use the rag to wipe down the skin. Applying the cleaner directly to the skin could damage your Xbox as it is an electronic device and spraying water directly on it would not be good. After cleaning we recommend you let your Xbox to sit for 8 hours before plugging it back in - just in case any water or cleaner got inside the case.

#### Polishing Your Skin:

Under normal conditions your skin should remain looking like new for quite some time. However, in some circumstances unusual wear can cause a skin to look less than desirable. Not to worry, your skin can be brought back to it's original luster and shine. The vinyl used to make your skin is the same vinyl used for automobile graphics; this means that you can use the same method for restoring it's shine: car wax. Yes, you can wax your skin the same as you'd wax your car. Doing so will hide minor scratches and surface imperfections and will restore a glossy finish to your skin. To wax your skin follow the instructions included with your wax, being especially careful not to get any wax inside vent holes, edges and crevices.

Thank you for your purchase from Dan's Decals, your source for high quality game system skins.

Visit [www.dansdecals.com](http://www.dansdecals.com) for all your vinyl skin needs. We are always making new products - if you don't see what you're looking for, email [dan@dansdecals.com](mailto:dan@dansdecals.com) to see if it's available. We custom cut skins as well - inquire for details.

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