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HOW TO GRIP TAPE YOUR DECK

Placing grip tape on your deck may appear to be one of the hardest things to do. Like most everything else in life, things comes with practice. Follow these steps below, and after gripping a few decks, you'll be ready to go.

Required Tools

1. Safety knife for cutting grip tape
2. File or another tool to score grip tape with.
3. Phillips screwdriver or Allen wrench
4. Skate tool or key socket set with 1/2" and 9/16" sockets and a 10/32" nut driver for truck mounting



Remove plastic from deck, and set down on clean surface. Peel back about 2" of paper and place the grip tape centered on the nose, leaving a 1/2" to 3/4" overhang.



Working from the nose, pat down the grip tape towards the center, then to the tail. The more time you take, the less air pockets you will have. Small air pockets will work their way out after you begin riding your board. By using a pin, poke center of larger of pockets, and then pat around.



Using a file or a tool that can withstand grip tape elements, keep your file on a 45 degree angle while doing this, so you'll score an outline around the deck. Do not file through the grip tape. Just remove the grit. This ensures complete adhesive of the grip tape along the edge of the deck and serves as a razor guideline.



Grab a safety knife (use the safety knife with caution) and hold it at 45 degrees to the edge on the underside of the deck. Proceed to cut around the line you just created with the file and trim the excess tape. Be careful not to trim so deep that you cut into the board. Have patience, this takes some practice.



Remove the trim. You can lightly file the edges of the deck after to help grip tape to stick, and to clean up and mistakes.