

# Ikonart Stencil Care and Use Instructions



**1. ADD STENCIL TO SURFACE:** Take a permanent marker and write “back” onto the clear backing of the stencil (this way you will know what side to replace the stencil on). Take the clear backing off the silkscreen stencil, pulling from bottom or side rather than crossways to avoid stretching of the stencil. Do not let the stencil fold and stick to itself. Place the stencil where you want it, making sure to get good adhesion between the stencil and your surface. Smooth out the stencil by rubbing it onto the surface (the adhesive on the back of the stencils is pressure sensitive). Make sure to remove all the air bubbles around the design.

**2. ADD PASTE/INK/PAIN:** Choose your paste/ink/paint based on what surface you are applying it to. We have a list of recommended paints by surface on our blog. Apply your paste/ink/paint by putting a thin even layer over the stencil using a scraper, squeegee, or brush. When fully covered scrape off the excess paint with your selected tool. Return the paint to its container. Work quickly so the paint does not dry and clog up the stencil (especially important when using chalk paste).

**3. REMOVE STENCIL:** Remove the stencil slowly from your surface and if any of your paste/ink/paint did not transfer properly, carefully place the stencil back down and reapply your medium before completely removing the stencil. Avoid pulling the stencil diagonally (so it doesn't stretch).

**4. WASH STENCIL:** If you are unable to clean the stencil right away, you can place it in a container of water until you can clean it. Using cool water, clean your stencil by holding it in one hand and gently rubbing the front of the stencil with your other hand or a soft brush. You can rinse the adhesive back side, but **DO NOT rub or brush** (this will cause your stencil to break down faster). Some staining or discoloration can occur depending on what paint/ink/paste you use, but this does not affect the performance of the stencil. As long as the mesh screen area is clear of all paint particles, it will be fine.

**5. DRY STENCIL:** Place the wet stencil onto the clear backer (with the word “back” on the other side so you can read it; it's important to return the stencil to the correct side of the clear backer). Turn it over and squeegee the water out of it, then place it on a flat, dry towel or hang it up to dry.

**6. STORING STENCILS:** Store the stencil(s) flat in a dry place. We use binders to store and organize our stencils. Your stencil(s) can be reused many times if they are cared for properly.

## Additional Tips

- \* If you notice a scratch or pinhole in your stencil that may allow paint through, just place a piece of painters tape over it. You can also use clear nail polish or screen filler.
- \* If using multiple colors on one stencil, paint one color first, then pull up that part of the stencil and lay it back down gently (not pressing on it), then apply the next color.
- \* If the stencil doesn't stick well, you can moisten the adhesive side with lightly damp lint free cloth, then place the stencil on your surface. Wait a minute or two for the moisture to dry, and then apply your paste/ink. You can also use a steamer to increase the tackiness.

## Additional Support

If you have any additional questions about using or storing your Ikonart stencils, please contact us at [realizace@gds.cz](mailto:realizace@gds.cz)