PRO TIPS

Help your transfers look their best and ensure long wear and continuity

Skin prep: Make sure the skin is clean and free of makeup or oils before applying your transfer pieces. The use of pre-adhesive products (like Top Guard) can improve the performance of your adhesives and antiperspirants (called Sweat Stop) can help prevent sweating under the piece, which will cause moisture pockets and lifting if worn for long periods of time.

Getting your transfer ready: Ensure your piece is clean and free of debris, excess powder. Wipe the transfer down with alcohol and a sponge. Be sure to be thorough but careful not to dissolve away the edges. Using Prosaide stipple over the piece and allow to dry thoroughly. Once dry. press the piece on to the shiny side of the water slide paper. Make sure you don't prep the piece too early - if the piece remains stuck to the water slide paper too long it can create distortion.

Hair: Any hair on the area of application that can be shaved will help. The piece will lay flatter against the skin and reduce lifting as any change in the body's temperature will cause the hair to stand on end/relax, which can show through the piece as well as cause separation. If you have to go over a haired area such as eyebrows or facial hair be sure to clear as much of it away from the adhesion area as possible and or tack down and hair to be covered with a medical adhesive.

Positioning: Accurate and flattering positioning helps any makeup. Choosing a spot on the face or body that both makes sense as well as is esthetically pleasing is important. Placement that is too central on the face (unless it is called for) or makeup's that are too symmetrical look inorganic. Reference and proper understanding of the injury or appliance being used is crucial.
Also be aware of areas that will cause repeated stress to the piece. Areas of the body with creases, spots where rubbing of clothing or other body parts and areas where there is a lot of movement (ie. Expression) should be avoided if at all possible. We strive to make our transfers both durable and life-like but careful planning and understanding of placement will help your makeup look great and last long with minimal maintence.

Colouring: Less is more! Choose a piece with intrinsic colouring that closely matches your subject. Adding breakup such as freckling and mottling will help to bring the piece to life. Trauma colouring (reds and bruise tones) should be added last.

Blood: Blood usage is subject to a lot of creative license but there is a difference between effective and ineffective blood usage. Make sure your blood looks like it is actually coming from the wound. Often people try to hide seams or poor applications by throwing excessive blood at casualty pieces. Lots of blood is fine but be sure to think about where it would come from and how it would flow. Choosing good quality blood with proper undertones, viscosity and age will also give you a more realistic result.

Continuity: Keeping track of applications for multiple uses can be tricky. Take lots of pictures, map out facial features (even small things like the position of a key freckle can help). It will help you keep track of placement. Carefully record the colours you used (in order of application) and any details or issues encountered during application. This will help make your applications quicker and more consistent!

PRO TIPS

Planning: think critically about your use of pieces. Develop a character, do some research. If you are creating a casualty or a character makeup take the time to think through the events/ reasons the application would look the way it does. Even an outlandish creature is most effective when elements of the design come from real life. Convincing applications come from science and planning

Troubleshooting: Mistakes do happen and issues can arise during application. Below is a list of questions to help you examine what may have happened during your application to cause a problem.

Transfer not coming off acetate:

1. Did you clean the piece with alcohol?
2. Did you allow your prosaide to dry completely?
3. Did you use enough prosaide/did you cover the piece thoroughly when stippling?

Transfer not coming off the waterslide:

1. Did you allow the water to thoroughly soak through the paper?
2. Did you clean the skin properly?
3. If you chose to prosaide the skin did you allow it to dry completely?
4. Did you stick the transfer to the correct (shiny) side of the waterslide paper?

Edges Lifting:

1. Did you clean the skin thoroughly before application?
2. Does your model sweat heavily and possibly require an antiperspirant under the piece?
3. Is the piece in an area with lots of movement causing it to be subject to repeat stress?
4. Are you using any blood? - Is it alcohol based?
5. Are you using any makeup on the rest of the skin? Is it cream/oil based?
6. Is your model wearing an oil based moisturizer?

Paint lifting/moving:

1. Did you seal the piece properly?
2. Did you use a cream based painting system? - Is it set/sealed properly?
3. Are you using blood? - Does it have the same solvent base as your paint system?

Buckling/Sticking:

1. Did you choose placement that will minimize physical wear and tear?
2. Did you seal and powder the piece properly?

If you followed all the steps correctly and still feel the transfer is not responding/performing the way you expect it to please contact us and we will happily help you resolve the issue.