



Important Information about your new Cutting Mat

- Anyone who does any kind of cutting or trimming in their shop or home needs an Xtreme Cutting Mat!
- Protects your table top, keeps your blades sharper longer, and allows for a nice smooth cutting surface

Be sure to place the smooth side down on your table. Your knife should only cut on the textured surface. Do not nail or glue your mat down as it will expand and contract from temperature changes. Fastened to the table will only make it ripple and become an irregular surface. To get your mat smooth, place it in the sun for an hour or two or use a heater to warm the cutting mat nicely. Then place it on top of your cutting table and leave it overnight. When you return in the morning, it should be flat and relaxed nicely on top of your table.

Each of our cutting mats are hand cleaned and inspected before packing them to ship. Further, we offer a warranty against manufacture defect to guarantee you will get quality products from us, every time. With a manufactures defect warranty, we typically get a claim immediately after purchase as most all manufactures defects are noticeable as soon as you use the product. This is a very rare occurrence from us as we inspect all our products prior to shipping.

There is no such thing as a self-healing cutting mat. Cutting mats are not living organisms so they cannot grow back together like our skin heals itself. If you start to see cut lines in your mat, it is obvious you are cutting with too much pressure. Most likely you are using the wrong knife type to cut with also. We recommend OLFA graphic arts knives with snap-off blades to help eliminate this very thing (cutting too deep). If you are using carpet cutter style knives, cheap knives from a hardware store that have very dull blades or dull too quickly, that might be one of the reasons you are digging so deep into a cutting mat when you cut. You may be overcompensating for the dull blade with more/too much pressure. Either way, you are cutting too deep into the mats and we cannot be responsible for what the customers choose to do with our mats after purchase. I like to relate the cutting of vinyl on a vehicle wrap. An experienced wrapper will make the cut with only enough pressure to cut the vinyl, not the paint on the car. That is the correct amount of pressure when cutting. Using the correct knife and sharp blade play a big part in the correct cutting process. A cutting mat is used to protect the table top surface you wish to protect. It will also provide a surface that extends the life of the blades you use on the cutting mats. However, it isn't a cut proof surface for someone cutting with too much pressure/force on their knife.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Proper Use of a Cutting Mat

- Anyone who does any kind of cutting or trimming in their Shop needs a cutting mat.
- Protects your table top, keeps your blades sharper longer, and allows for a nice cutting surface.
 - Makes life much simpler—cutting mats do not last forever and will wear out.

10 *Commandments to Keep Your Cutting Mat in good Shape and Make it Last Longer*

1. Avoid repetitious cutting and always use a **Sharp Blade**, applying the proper pressure to cut through your material.
2. Use the proper knives with a sharp blade. Recommended are slide knives with break-away blades (not the heavy-duty ones) and Xacto-type knives.
3. **Do Not Use** utility knives common to the trades that are designed to cut sheet rock and carpet.
4. Cut on your cutting mat using the same pressure you would use trimming vinyl on a vehicle when applying graphics without scoring the paint.
5. Proper training on how to cut through materials is a plus to keep your blades sharp and make your cutting mat last longer.
 - How to score vinyl with a knife without going through the liner.
 - How to cut through the vinyl and liner.
 - How to cut through all the vinyl and liners with premask and with just a light score on the cutting mat.
 - How to cut through any other material (e.g. banner) and lightly score the mat**More Pressure Is Not The Answer.**
6. Two of the hardest materials to cut are Coroplast and PVC without causing damage to your cutting mat.
 - Coroplast should be cut in three to four score marks, with each mark getting deeper but using the same pressure as the cut before it. With practice you can cut it without even touching the top of the mat.
 - PVC is usually 1/8 to ¼-inch thick. Anything thicker should be cut with a panel saw or router. The fastest way to cut PVC is to score it and then lay it along the edge of the table or mat and snap it off. This is quick and clean.
7. Cutting mats can be scored by using Dull Blades and too much Pressure on the Knife. Again, **Apply only the Pressure needed to cut through the item being cut.**
8. Cutting mats will last a long time if used properly. The person running the knife dictates how long it will last.
9. If you score the mat using the wrong knife or a dull blade, or apply extreme pressure, **The Magic Healing Fairy will not show up to fix it.**
10. Cutting mats are like a fine automobile – you must treat them right if you want them to perform.