# Making It Stick: Applying Nursery Wall Decals by Marcia Collins

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Decals are a great way to decorate your nursery- They add versatility and interest to the room, are relatively inexpensive, and highly flexible. As your children grow and develop, their changing tastes and interests can make nursery wall decals a fantastic alternative to repainting or repapering your walls. Here's how to get started:

## Before You Start

If you have recently painted your nursery, try to wait at least a month before adding decals- letting the pain set fully will reduce the chance of the nursery decals pulling away patches later. Also, keep in mind that water-based paint provides the best surface for nursery wall decals. Bold colors may show through or interfere with complex patterns, so it's advisable to stay with light pastels.

Plan as much of the desired layout as possible ahead of time. Check to see that nothing will obscure the decorations. Pay attention to the location of humidifiers or radiators, as damp and heat will affect the permanence of your nursery wall decals. Likewise, direct sunlight from skylights or windows can fade your decals and cause them to lose their adhesive properties.

## Application

The first step in applying nursery decals is to make sure that the surfaces you're using are clean and dry. Remove any dust from the walls (or furniture) and wash thoroughly with a damp cloth, using a mild detergent solution. A quick swipe with rubbing alcohol before applying the decals will help remove any remaining oils, adhesive residue, or other substances. Also, be sure to test an out-of-the-way spot before applying cleaning solutions to reduce the risk of discoloration or damage.

Next, use masking or painter's tape to position the nursery decals. Painter's tape is highly recommended as it is designed to be surface-friendly. A level or ruler can assist your layout.

When you have your decals placed and aligned the way you want, lightly mark the transfer paper of each decal at the top edges, and place tape on the wall above them.

Turn a decal over and place it against a flat surface such as the wall or a table. Pull slowly from one corner to remove the backing paper. If the decal sticks to the backing paper, push the layers back together and press firmly, then try again.

Reverse the decal and find the top-edge marks. Line them up with the tape before pressing the decal against the wall. Working from the center of the decal, slowly run the flat of your hand in rays outward, first to corners, then sides of the backing paper. This will firmly attach the decal and prevent air bubbles from marring your design. If you have a clean paint roller or a rolling pin, this process will go much faster.

Remove the transfer paper by rolling it slowly down over itself- do not pull it directly away from the wall, as this can cause the decal to separate from the wall.

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Marcia Collins - About Author:
Marcia Collins is a Mother of three and an artistic designer that recently helped create a line of a nursery wall decals. The a nursery decals are fast and easy way to quickly decorate a room without damaging the walls. In addition to being a designer, Collins is an accomplished author and speaker.

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