



Artisan Enhancements, LLC.  
www.artisanenhancements.com

**Bio-Based   Environmentally Sustainable   Non-Toxic   Hypoallergenic   Low Odor/NO VOC**

## **Transfer Gel by Artisan Enhancements®**

Transfer Gel is a translucent, fibrous gel medium used to transfer commercially or laser printed materials. Images can be transferred to surfaces properly base coated with paint or sealed. Transfer Gel can also be used as a quality, long lasting, decoupage adhesive and sealer.

### **Recommended Use:**

Transfer Gel can be applied to paint, furniture, wood, walls, and more. We recommend testing a small area of the desired surface and image to see if the Transfer Gel will adhere or "stick".

### **Ideal Printed Materials:**

Images should be printed on or copied using a professional print source or laser printer. Ink Jet prints and inks are NOT recommended. Thicker papers (26-28 lb) tend to be easier to handle and produce the best results. For the image transfer technique, make sure to make a copy of the original image and have the image mirrored/reversed. A variety of materials including wallpaper, scrapbook paper, wrapping paper, and fabric can be used as materials to be decoupage.

### **Notes:**

If the Transfer Gel sticks to the surface, proceed to transferring the printed material. If the Transfer Gel splits, separates, or slides off the surface - the surface may need to be primed or a sealed. We recommend Clear Topcoat Sealer by Artisan Enhancements® to create a sealed barrier and a workable surface. If priming the surface is required, allow the layer of primer to dry completely at least 24-48 hours before applying the image with Transfer Gel medium.

### **Application:**

Stir the Transfer Gel medium thoroughly before beginning.

### **To transfer "reversed" printed images:**

Use a quality chip brush to apply a liberal but even coat of Transfer Gel to the face of the image paper/printed material (the image should be mirrored). Be sure to get good coverage on the image paper/printed material that will be applied to the surface. Lay the image paper/printed material face (image side) down on to the surface. Using a flexible but sturdy smoothing tool, such as the Color Shaper by Artisan Enhancements®, adhere the image paper/printed material to the surface.

Using the smoothing tool, continue to smooth the paper to eliminate possible air bubbles and excess Transfer Gel trapped between the surface and the paper. To unify the final finished sheen and protect the surface, brush Transfer Gel on to remaining exposed surface without any image paper/printed material.

Allow the image paper/printed material to fully and completely dry a minimum of 24 hours after application. The longer the image is allowed to dry the crisper and clearer the image will be after the reveal. Dry times can be accelerated by the use of a hairdryer, heating tool, or dehumidifier.

Removal of excess paper can be done by hand or with a sponge. Begin the process of removing paper backing by spritzing the dried paper with water, then use hands and fingers to gently start the peeling process. Graduate to a sponge to roll away more of the top layer of paper backing. A clean damp two-sided kitchen sponge works great as a tool with a smooth and rough side to remove excess paper around image.

The image is actually sandwiched between the face of the paper and sits on the Transfer Gel. Avoid excessive rubbing and removal of the image paper/printed material. Overworking the removal could result in the image

being accidentally removed in the process. Keep in mind a reversed image transfer is not intended to give you a perfect “copied” look. If you accidentally remove some of the image, embrace it and distress the sides a little. Allow the exposed paper image to completely dry. Seal with either Clear Topcoat Sealer by Artisan Enhancements®, Clear Finish by Artisan Enhancements®, or Soft Waxes. Follow the recommended instructions for Clear Topcoat Sealer, Clear Finish, or wax cure times before using the surface.

**Helpful Hints - What do to if a "halo" appears on the reverse image transfer?**

To get less of a “halo”, once the paper backing is removed cover entire surface with paper. This process will diffuse any remaining evident edges (although edges create an aged look once color washed and dark waxed). If you want to remove the “halo” further, lightly sand the edges with a ultra-fine grit paper (halo tends to appear less on lighter paint) or touch up with paint.

**To decoupage images:**

Use a quality chip or gesso brush to apply a liberal but even coat of Transfer Gel to the back of the image paper/printed material. Be sure to get good coverage on the back of the image paper/printed material that will be applied to the surface. Apply the image paper/printed material face (image side) up on to the surface.

Using a flexible but sturdy smoothing tool, such as the Color Shaper by Artisan Enhancements®, adhere the paper to the surface. Using the smoothing tool, continue to smooth the paper to eliminate possible air bubbles and excess Transfer Gel trapped between the surface and the paper. Seal the image with another layer of Transfer Gel, again smoothing to remove air bubbles and excessive Transfer Gel. Add layers of images if desired, remembering to smooth and seal each layer.

To unify the final finished sheen and protect the surface, brush Transfer Gel on to remaining exposed surface without any image paper/printed material. Allow the image paper/printed material to fully and completely dry a minimum of 24-48 hours after application before use (the more layers the longer the dry time). An additional sealer is not required for a decoupage application because Transfer Gel has a natural acrylic base with a satin sheen. However, if desired, after 24-48 hours dry time, a thin coat of Clear Topcoat Sealer by Artisan Enhancements® can be added for extra protection and to create a surface that can be antiqued with soft waxes. Follow the recommended instructions for Clear Topcoat Sealer, Clear Finish, or wax cure times before using the surface.

**Clean up & Product Storage:** Use hand sanitizer to remove “tackiness” from hands and fingers. Use rubbing alcohol to remove Size from tools. After cleaning with rubbing alcohol rinse with warm water to remove any remaining alcohol residue. Do not let freeze or expose to direct sunlight/extreme heat. Do not apply product when air and surface temperatures are below 50°F (10°C). Seal the container tightly. When resealing product use alcohol around rim before resealing or apply foil under rim so it won’t stick.

**Additional Resources and Inspiration:**

<http://artisanenhancements.com/blog/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/artisanenhance/transfer-gel-by-artisan-enhancements/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/artisanenhance/great-ephemera-for-image-transfer/>