

How To Replace Sail Numbers



Easy Sail Number replacement

Sometimes a previously used sail comes your way (by sale or by gift) and the numbers aren't the same as your boat. If you have replacement numbers and no one to put them on, you can do it yourself. Just be certain to order sail number colors that match the rest of the sail!

Tools

It's easy enough if you have few essential tools:

1. A cotton rag
2. Pencil
3. Knife or fingernail
4. Straight edge ruler (Like US Sailing Rules of Racing!)
5. Denatured alcohol
6. Large flat elevated space (6 ft picnic table or larger)

Setting up your workspace

Have plenty of space to lay out your sail. Get a table to drape the sail over so you are close to it while standing up. Working on the floor is more difficult and less flexible. A 6 foot folding table will work for most scow sails. The table is for your work space, and you can roll the top and the bottom of the sail at the bottom to conserve floor space.

Preparing to remove the old number - First draw a box

Here's how. Put the sail number area on a flat table. IMPORTANT - Do one side completely at a time. Place all the numbers in the CORRECT ORDER and DIRECTION on the sail near where you are removing the old ones. Using the ruler, lightly draw a box with a pencil around edges of

the existing number. Unless it's a #1, the box will provide you with accurate spacing and leveling for the replacement number. If you are adding a second or third digit, extend the top and bottom parallel pencil lines to keep the numbers level with original numbers.

Peeling up the old number

With the boxes and lines completed, peel up a small corner of the old number, and rub a rag with denatured alcohol along the edge you are peeling up. The alcohol helps separate the glue from the sail, and cleans the sail without leaving a residue. The pencil marks will stay visible for your accurate placement of your new numbers.

Prepare for the new number

After removing the old number, lightly rub the rag over the surface that was under the old number to remove any old glue residue. Allow the surface to dry for a few minutes.

Applying the new number - take your time

Peel a small portion of the new number from its backing at one of the edges to get your initial placement. Start at the top or the bottom with the number positioned inside the penciled in box. Gently press the peeled part of the number, starting at the pencil line, evenly across the separating edge with one hand, back and forth, while slowly pulling off the backing with the other hand. This minimizes air bubbles under the number.

Take your time on this as you have some flexibility at the first positioning of the number on your pencil line guides. Once you start pressing the number down, you will have limited ability to make corrections.

Repeat until one side is complete

After this you have your sail number in the right place at the right angle, repeat the process for the next number in the box you made for it before removing the old number.

Voila!

Your sail is now complete with your correct number. It is recommended that important sports games and regattas are viewed before or after this sail improvement to ensure you have the correct number in the correct place on the correct side. It also keeps the beer stains to a minimum.