



## Airtab® Installation Instructions

### **PLEASE READ ENTIRE INSTRUCTION PACKAGE BEFORE INSTALLATION**

Each Airtab® generates two small whirlwinds of air that reduce the effects of turbulence. They are installed with the wide, open end facing forward, toward the front of the tractor or trailer. Initially, most believe they are installed the other way around. Photos of typical installations can be viewed in the Photo Gallery at [www.airtab.com](http://www.airtab.com). Airtabs™ are made of tough UV resistant plastic and can be painted with suitable automotive paint. . If Airtabs™ are to be painted, we recommend they be painted before installation, in clean “workbench” conditions. Using Paint such as “Krylon Fusion” prepare the Airtab® by cleaning with mineral spirits/paint thinner prior to painting. If using other paints follow their recommendations for cleaning and application.

### **General.**

All work should be performed with due care and in accordance with all existing codes, safety regulations, labor laws, hazardous material practices etc.

### **Required Materials.**

- Sufficient Airtabs™, spacing templates, tape measure and masking tape.
- Automotive soap & water, degreaser (if necessary). **Ensure you follow the vehicle manufacturer’s guidelines on cleaning the surface.**
- If a de-greaser is used, ENSURE all residues are removed with a suitable cleaning agent before installation. De-greasers will defeat the Airtab® adhesive tape. Do not use Windex or other glass cleaners.
- Supply of clean shop rags or equivalent paper product.
- Scaffolding or secure work platform (preferred) or ladder.
- Wheel chocks.

### **Surface & Site Preparation**

Airtabs™ should be installed with the vehicle skin temperatures above +40F (+5C). The surfaces must be free of dirt, oil, tar, wax, sticker residue and moisture. Airtabs™ can only be installed on clean, dry, flat surfaces. If a degreaser is used, it must be completely removed before installation begins. The final cleaning process should be with an alcohol-based product such as rubbing alcohol, varsol or paint thinner. Use clean shop rags. **In short, for installation, the cleaner, the dryer, the warmer, the better.** Chock vehicle wheels to prevent movement. Secure ladders with rope etc. if a suitable platform is unavailable.

### **Location On Vehicles**

In general terms, and for maximum effect, Airtabs™ should be installed as close to the back (trailing) edge of the vehicle as possible while ensuring proper adhesion surfaces. They are effective in shielding gaps or reducing turbulent air from entering undesirable areas. Any part of a vehicle that presents an edge that is at right angles to the airflow is a possible Airtab® location. This includes forward of wheel wells etc. In order to accommodate rivets etc during installation, Airtabs™ can be mounted so that the leading edge of the Airtab® is 14 or less inches from the trailing edge of the vehicle. Mounting further forward will reduce performance.

Take care to ensure the Airtabs™ are lined up well. The effect is eye catching and professional looking. To do this, measure forward from the trailing edge of the trailer to where the leading edges of the Airtabs™ will be. Mark at several points and lay a strip of masking tape along the marks to use as a guideline. After installation, remove the tape.

**TRAILERS:** (NOTE: For Kemlite®/Fiberglass translucent trailer roof applications, please order “Kemlite” Airtabs™ For the roof. Kemlite ® is a registered trademark of Kemlite Inc. No endorsement of Airtabs™ by Kemlite is implied.) Place the Airtabs™ just forward of the rear doorframe on the sides, and forward of the rain ridge on the roof. Placement can be adjusted to avoid large rivets but Airtabs™ may be installed over flush rivet heads as long as the Airtab® leading edge is flush to the surface. CAUTION: Although roll-up doors pose no hazard, ensure placement is adjusted so that when “barn” style doors are opened, the door hinge bolts do not impact any Airtabs™ and cause damage.



**TRACTORS:** Do not install on flexible rubber strips, exhaust stacks, or heat shields. Be aware of curved surfaces on fairings that may not be immediately apparent. The ideal surface is flat, but Airtabs™ can be installed on slightly curved surfaces as long as the leading edge is absolutely flush and the majority of the tape is in contact. If the pointed tip is slightly raised, it poses no performance degradation.

## Spacing Template

The spacing template ensures proper spacing of Airtabs™ for most installations. That is 3 per running foot or every 4 inches on center. This spacing can be adjusted to avoid rivet heads, bolts, grab bars, etc. This spacing may be increased within reason to avoid the above items, but should not be decreased. Reducing the recommended spacing interval will cause the adjacent vortices to interfere with each other and reduce effectiveness. Basically, if one fits, and is no closer than recommended to the one adjacent, then place it. The templates have male/female keyed ends to ensure proper spacing is maintained as the installation progresses. To “load” the template, peel off the backing paper of an Airtab®.

CAUTION: the backing paper is VERY slippery and will create a serious hazard if allowed to accumulate under foot. Insert the wide end of the Airtab® into the template between the two small “posts”. ENSURE that the sticky side is against the smaller holding tab and not the larger one. Failure to do this will make Airtab®/template separation very difficult. See figure a.

## Installation

Remove the backing paper and load 2 templates with 3 Airtabs™ each. Place the 1<sup>st</sup> template on the vehicle according to the positioning instructions above. If on the roof, start at either side. If on the sides, start at the bottom and work up. Apply light pressure to the Airtabs™, just enough to make them stick. **DO NOT REMOVE THE TEMPLATE.** Position the 2<sup>nd</sup> template above (or beside if on the roof ) the 1<sup>st</sup>, using the keyed ends for correct spacing. Again, press lightly. Now press firmly on the Airtabs™ in the 1<sup>st</sup> template to set them, ensuring that all the tape is in contact with the surface. Pull the 1<sup>st</sup> template out from under the set Airtabs™ ensuring that neither the set Airtabs™ nor the 2<sup>nd</sup> template is disturbed. Reload the 1<sup>st</sup> template and repeat the process. If you wish, practice this procedure with the templates on a workbench etc. before removing the backing paper. It is also recommended starting on roofs to help you become more proficient before installing on more visible locations. For installation planning purposes, allow 1 man-hour per unit. Full setting of the tape takes 24 hours but vehicles will be operational after 15 minutes. The warmer the surface temperature, the faster the tape will set. NOTE: If the templates are not suited to a particular installation or prove cumbersome, install Airtabs™ “by hand” if necessary. Ensure spacing and alignment is correct. See figure b below.

## Removing Damaged or Broken Airtabs™

Start at the pointed tip end and pry upwards slowly and steadily. The tape may stay on the Airtab® or on the vehicle. If it stays on the vehicle, peel it away with a steady pull. WD-40, Gunk or any degreaser will remove tape residue. CAUTION: ENSURE that adjacent Airtabs™ are well protected from any degreasing agents. See “Surface & Site Preparation.

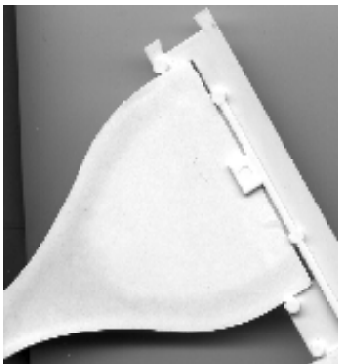


figure a.

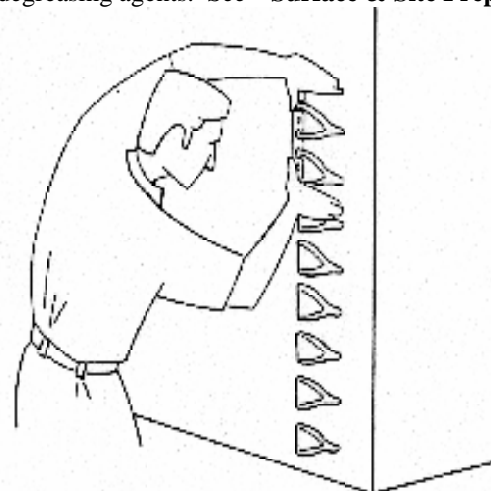


figure b.