Computers and vinyl: Organizing equipment

By KEVIN J. ROSS

EDWARDS, Colo. — Many superintendents have used labels and lettering as an effective way of organization. I first started using vinyl labels to code our golf course equipment. I can remember years ago, buying those packets of vinyl adhesive lettering at the local K-Mart. The problem with those packets was that the most popular letters and numbers were used quickly and you were stuck with many packets of non-useful ones.

Enter the 1990s and the computer age, and this problem has been solved. Many sign companies have the capability today to produce adhesive vinyl letters, numbers, logos, etc. to your own specifications. At these sign companies, a large sheet of adhesive vinyl is fed into a machine and stamped out according to the design work done on a computer.

We work with a local sign company and use our own specifications, which include sizing, colors, fonts and logo designs. So now that these letters and numbers are easier to get, what can they be used for? Our main goal at the Country Club of the Rockies is to simplify things as much as possible, to take the guesswork away from the staff. A few of the more important uses we have found are:

- Equipment coding: All our equipment is coded to track hours, gas usage, repair costs, etc.
- Fuel requirements: All our equipment fuel tanks are labeled with a G (signifying gas), D (diesel), or M (mixed). These are also color-coded and match our fuel pumps which are labeled.
- Job boards: We customize our assignment boards.
- Safety areas and items: Items such as eye wash and first-aid stations, and chemical storage facilities.

These are just a few examples where these vinyl letters and numbers can increase organization. I'm sure many superintendents can think of additional uses which can fit their operation. The cost of having these made is minimal. The efficiency and organization they provide can be very high. They have been very helpful to our operation. Give these a try and I think you'll feel the same.