

Overview

This installation guide provides details on the proper installation of the 3M™ Protection Wrap Film. This document includes a list of recommended products and tools as well as vehicle preparation and 3M™ Protection Wrap Film installation best practices.

Installation Tools

- High-quality paint protection wrap glove
- Scotch-Brite™ lint-free microfiber cloths
- Cutting tools
 - A 30-degree stainless steel blade cutting knife
 - 3M™ Knifeless™ Tape Precision Line (for dry installation method only)
- Felt squeegee
- Electric heat gun
- Isopropyl alcohol
- Deionized water
- Spray bottles
- Non-detergent soap
- 3M™ General Purpose Adhesive Cleaner or similar adhesive remover solvent
- 3M™ Foaming Glass Cleaner or similar non-ammonium foaming glass cleaner
- 3M™ Surface Preparation System
- 3M™ Perfect-It™ Cleaner Clay *or* Meguiar's® Mirror Glaze® Professional Detailing Clay, Mild, CS2000
- *Optional:* Meguiar's® Ultimate Quik Wax Detailer (dry install ONLY)
- *Optional:* 3M™ Primer 94

NOTE: If using a tack solution for wet installations, do NOT exceed a ratio of 15% IPA to deionized water

Tips and Tricks

- Film is flexible and conformable without heat.
- Heat is recommended when applying the film to deep recesses.
- For best results, do NOT overstretch material when conforming around curves.
- Post-heat edges thoroughly after installation to prevent the material from lifting over time.
- 3M™ Knifeless™ Tape Precision Line can easily cut through the film.
- Preheating the cutting blade or a heated blade can assist in cutting free floating film.

Vehicle Preparation

Vehicle Condition

All wrap films, including 3M™ Protection Wrap Film, should be applied to an original equipment manufacturer paint vehicle finish for the best results. 3M's warranty only applies to vehicles that have the bond between the paint and the vehicle substrate specified by the manufacturer. Any rust, bubbling, scratches, dents, or other damage will be visible through the film, and such imperfections may damage the film or cause the film to fail prematurely. Areas repaired with body filler must be sanded, epoxy primed, and, for best results, finished with an original equipment manufacturer paint or clear coat. Any recently applied finish must be fully cured according to the paint manufacturer's directions before the film is applied.

Any defect in the paint—including scratches, dents, bubbling, pitting, fisheyes, and orange peel—may be visible through 3M™ Protection Wrap Film, especially when using the flat, gloss colors. 3M recommends a professional paint correction be performed when heavy orange peeling is present on a vehicle prior to installing 3M™ Protection Wrap Film. Failure to do so will result in high gloss films taking on the orange peel appearance. Wrap shops should set proper expectations for their customers before installing any 3M™ Protection Wrap Film.

Installation Environment

Working with 3M™ Protection Wrap Film high gloss films requires a clean installation environment. Keep the floors clean of dust and debris to lessen the chance of contaminants getting under the film. Lint-free clothing and hair covers may also be necessary. Film should be installed immediately after the installation surface has been cleaned.

Cleaning Instructions

NOTE

See the [3M™ Vehicle Prep for Success Guide](#) for detailed cleaning guidelines. 3M strongly recommends following these detailed cleaning guides prior to installing any gloss color films.

1. Work with an authorized paint correction specialist or automotive detailer to remove any ceramic coating from the vehicle. See [Ceramic Coating Removal SOP](#) for details.
2. Use 3M™ General Purpose Adhesive Cleaner - or a similar product - to remove any surface residue (e.g., wax, tar, paint sealant).
3. Use 3M™ Foaming Glass Cleaner - or a similar product - to remove any excess adhesive cleaner.
4. Clean the vehicle surface with non-detergent soap.
5. Use 3M™ Perfect-It™ Cleaner Clay or Meguiar's® Mirror Glaze® Professional Detailing Clay, Mild, CS2000 together with water and non-detergent soap to remove surface contaminants from the painted surface.
6. Always use 3M™ Surface Preparation System as the final cleaner before application.
7. Wipe down the vehicle with a clean Scotch-Brite™ lint-free microfiber cloth.

NOTE

Perform a final vehicle inspection prior to film installation.

Installation Preparation

1. *Optional:* To minimize the risk of adhesive lines and wrinkles:
 - a. Apply Meguiar's® Ultimate Quick Wax Detailer to the vehicle's high points
 - b. If desired, wipe large flat areas with Meguiar's® Ultimate Quick Wax Detailer.

NOTE

Do NOT use a ceramic coating or ceramic boost spray for vehicle preparation.

2. *Optional:* Apply 3M™ Primer 94 to vehicle areas where the film will be stretched, particularly on vehicle panel edges, to help maximize the film's bond to the substrate.
3. Clean all edges with a microfiber cloth and a mixture of 70% isopropyl alcohol and 30% deionized water.
4. *Optional:* Apply 3M™ Knifeless™ Tape Precision Line on vehicle seams as desired.
5. Measure the vehicle wrap area.
6. Cut the film to size.

Additional considerations prior to installation:

Textured, metallic, pearl and color flip films may have a directional characteristic to their appearance. For the best overall appearance, install the film in a consistent orientation throughout the entire installation. 3M recommends checking the film's orientation and color prior to installation. Do NOT alternate the film's orientation from panel to panel.

Lot-to-lot variations are uncommon in 3M™ Protection Wrap Film colors as 3M has specifications in place to prevent large color variations. However, film colors can vary slightly from lot to lot. Use the same lot number of film for an entire vehicle to ensure a consistent appearance.

Installation Instructions

1. *Optional:* Mist the liner and cap sheet with water to help reduce static cling.
2. *Optional:* Installers preferring wet installation for large parts areas can use DI Water or tack solution for more slide on large sections. Make sure to squeegee very thoroughly, removing all water underneath the film, and dry the film edges before wrapping with a heat gun.

NOTE

If using a tack solution for wet installations, do NOT exceed a ratio of 15% IPA to deionized water.

NOTE

Installers who use hybrid solutions should not exceed 0.5 ml of baby shampoo per 1 liter of tack solution.

3. Remove and discard the film liner.
4. Gently lay the film over the installation area. Keep the film taut and flat to minimize wrinkles.
5. Rough-trim the excess film. Preheating the blade can make cutting easier.
6. *Optional:* Remove and discard the cap sheet. Some installers prefer to keep the cap sheet on during installation for a stiffer handling experience.
7. Gently lift and cold stretch the film to make it taut and smooth.
8. Correct any wrinkles, creases, and tack points.
9. Cold form the corners, making sure not to overstretch the film.
10. Remove and discard the cap sheet if it was not removed previously.
11. If there are any adhesive markings, gently lift the film off the vehicle, starting with the high points, and use a heat gun set to 93°C to 107°C (200°F to 225°F) to fix adhesive markings.
12. Use a high-quality paint protection wrap glove to apply film to the high points.
13. Palm stretch the film into the recesses.
14. Install the flat area using the palm of the high-quality paint protection wrap glove or apply the film with a squeegee, working in 2.5 cm to 5.1 cm (1in. to 2 in.) overlapping strokes at a 45-degree squeegee angle.

NOTE

Squeegees should either be sprayed with a mixture of 70% isopropyl alcohol and 30% deionized water, placed inside the high-quality paint protection wrap glove, or placed in a squeegee sleeve. This helps the squeegee slide across the film.

15. Use the palm of the high-quality paint protection wrap glove to slowly push the air out the sides of the film.
16. Finish trimming excess film using a blade and/or 3M™ Knifeless™ Tape.
17. Heat set the corners to 93°C to 107°C (200°F to 225°F).
18. Fold the film under all vehicle edges.
19. Heat set the film edges to 93°C to 107°C (200°F to 225°F). This helps prevent the film from lifting over time.

Health and Safety

Tools and Equipment Usage

When using any equipment, always follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.

Chemicals

When handling any chemical products, read the manufacturers' container labels and the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for important health, safety, and environmental information.

[Follow this link to obtain SDS sheets for 3M products.](#)

[Follow this link to obtain information about substances of very high concern \(SVHC\) for EU products.](#)



Warranty Information

Technical Information

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Product Selection and Use

Many factors beyond 3M's control and uniquely within user's knowledge and control can affect the use and performance of a 3M product in a particular application. Customer is solely responsible for evaluating the product and determining whether it is appropriate and suitable for customer's application, including conducting a workplace hazard assessment, reviewing all applicable regulations and standards, and reviewing the product label and use instructions. Failure to properly evaluate, select, and use a 3M product in accordance with instructions or to meet all applicable safety regulations may result in injury, sickness, death, and/or harm to property.

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