

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

- WrapGlove® GHOST™ glove or similar wrap glove
- Scotch-Brite® lint-free microfiber cloths
- Cutting tools
 - A 30-degree stainless steel blade cutting knife
 - 3M™ Knifeless™ Tape Precision Line (recommended) or 3M™ Knifeless™ Tape Design Line (alternative)
- 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™ Perfect-It™ Cleaner Clay or Meguiar's® Mirror Glaze® Professional Detailing Clay, Mild, CS200
- *Optional:* 3M™ Quick Wax Spray Detailer or Meguiar's® Ultimate Quick Detailer
- *Optional:* 3M™ Primer 94

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 over stretch 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.
- Pre-heating 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 a “like new” vehicle finish for the best results. 3M’s warranty only applies to vehicles that have an excellent bond between the paint and the vehicle substrate. 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 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, if one is present on the vehicle. See the [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, CS200 together with water and non-detergent soap to remove surface contaminants from the painted surface.
6. 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 Detailer to the vehicle's high points
 - b. If desired, wipe large flat areas with Meguiar's® Ultimate Quick 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 through 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.

NOTE

Do NOT over wet the film, always keep the vehicle dry. This film is intended for dry application techniques only. NEVER use a wet application method to apply this film.

2. Remove and discard the film liner.
3. Gently lay the film over the installation area. Keep the film taut and flat to minimize wrinkles.
4. Rough trim the excess film. Pre-heating the blade can make cutting easier.
5. *Optional:* Remove and discard the cap sheet. Some installers prefer to keep the cap sheet on during installation for a stiffer handling experience.
6. Gently lift and cold stretch the film to make it taut and smooth.
7. Correct any wrinkles, creases, and tack points.
8. Cold form the corners, making sure not to overstretch the film.
9. Remove and discard the cap sheet if it was not removed previously.
10. 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 200°F to 220°F (93.3°C to 104.4°C) to fix adhesive markings.
11. Use a WrapGlove® GHOST™ glove to apply film to the high points.
12. Palm stretch the film into recesses.
13. Install the flat area using the palm of the WrapGlove® GHOST™ glove or apply the film with a squeegee, working in 1 in. to 2 in. (2.5 cm to 5.1 cm) 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 WrapGlove® GHOST™ glove, or placed in a squeegee sleeve. This helps the squeegee slide across the film.

14. Use the palm of the wrap glove to slowly push the air out the sides of the film.
15. Finish trimming excess film using a blade and/or 3M™ Knifeless™ Tape.
16. Heat set the corners to 200°F to 220°F (93.3°C to 104.4°C).
17. Fold the film under all vehicle edges.
18. Heat set the film edges to 200°F to 220°F (93.3°C to 104.4°C). 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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Commercial Branding and Transportation

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