

Vehicle Preparation for Success Guide

Considerations Before Installation



Vehicle Preparation for Success Guide

This guide is intended to provide installers with 3M's recommendations on how to inspect, prepare and clean a vehicle prior to applying a car wrap film. Each section focuses on specific global techniques and best practices used to help installers achieve more successful installations. Follow all installation safety standards for your respective country.

Installers should wear proper personal protection equipment (PPE) as defined by the facility and as recommended by the products used.



Always follow safety regulations

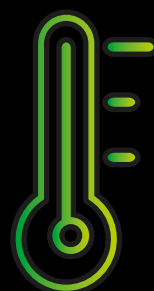
Operating Conditions

Location



Well-lit, clean, and dry indoor environment, away from any ventilation and entrances and away from any equipment that may contaminate the vehicle surface.

Temperature



16°C to 38°C (60.8°F to 100.4°F)

For specific installation temperatures, reference the product bulletins for the graphics being used.

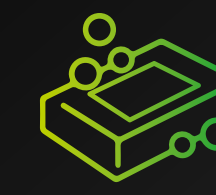
Materials and Tools



Detergent and water solution



Scotch-Brite® High Performance Cloth or lint-free cloth



3M™ Perfect-It™ Clay Bar



Vehicle cleaning sponge



3M™ Hand Applicator PA1-G Gold Squeegee



Grounding cable



Compressed air

PPE

Appropriate personal protection equipment



Compressed air



Spray bottle



Preparatory solvent



Vacuum



70% isopropyl alcohol (IPA) and 30% water mixture



3M™ Perfect-It™ Clean and Shine



Always follow safety regulations

Operating Steps 1 – 3

1

Vehicle Inspection

Inspect the vehicle with the customer to identify rust, paint quality issues, scratches, dents and other damage that may affect film installation. A checklist may be helpful to reference during this inspection.



2

Clean the Vehicle

Clean the entire vehicle surface with soap and warm water prior to bringing the vehicle inside.

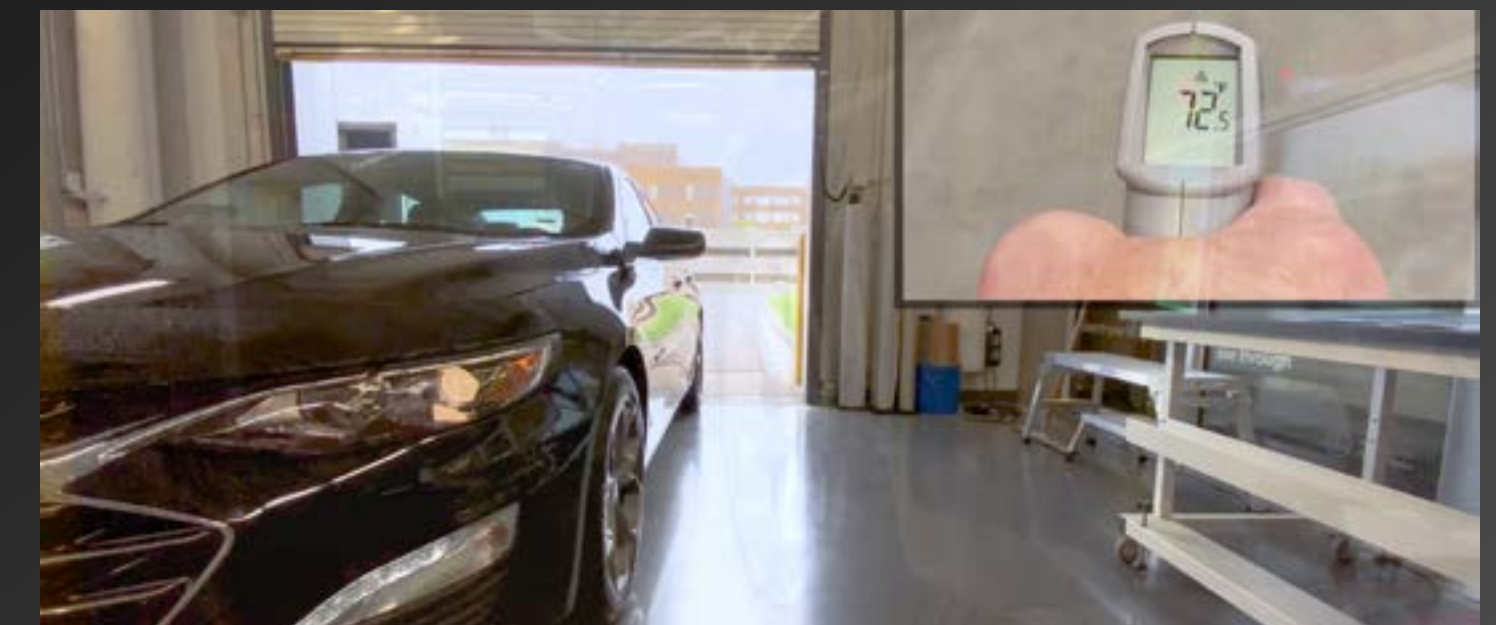
Note: Customers' cars should arrive clean and free from gross contaminants. Regardless, installers should also clean the vehicle themselves.



3

Bring the Vehicle Inside

Move the vehicle into an environmentally controlled workshop. Place it away from any air vents or entrances, and away from any equipment that may contaminate the vehicle surface.



Always follow safety regulations

Operating Steps 1 – 4 (of 7)

1

Clean the Vehicle

Clean the entire vehicle, removing any gross debris such as leaves and sticks.



2

Apply Compressed Air

Apply compressed air to remove moisture and dust from all confined or tight spaces on the vehicle, such as head lights and body panel lines. It is preferable to conduct this cleaning outside when possible to avoid further contaminating the shop.



3

Clean the Wheels

Clean each of the vehicle's wheels and wheel wells with clean, lint-free microfibre cloths and a mixture of 70% isopropyl alcohol and 30% water.

Replace the cloths as they become dirty.



4

Clean the Vehicle Near Wrap Areas

Use clean lint-free microfibre cloths and a mixture of 70% isopropyl alcohol and 30% water to clean anywhere on the vehicle that is near the wrap area. This includes areas such as the windshield, wipers, the edges of the hood, trunk, doors, and door jambs. Additionally wrap a microfibre cloth with IPA around a squeegee to clean the gaps along molding and seals.



Always follow safety regulations

Operating Steps 5 – 7 (of 7)

5

Remove Difficult Contaminants

Remove difficult contaminants (such as tar, tree sap, waxes and polishes) from the vehicle surface using a clean, lint-free microfibre cloth soaked in an appropriate solvent.

Replace the cloths as they become dirty

Important note: Review the Safety Data Sheet or product information for any chemical used, and wear appropriate personal protection equipment during use.



6

Further Particulate Removal

A. Wet the vehicle with 3M™ Perfect-It™ Clean and Shine, **OR** a mixture of water and car soap.

B. Scrub the vehicle surface with a piece of 3M™ Perfect-It™ Clay Bar to remove particulate matter from the vehicle's paint.

Important note: Review the Safety Data Sheet or product information for any chemical used, and wear appropriate personal protection equipment during use.

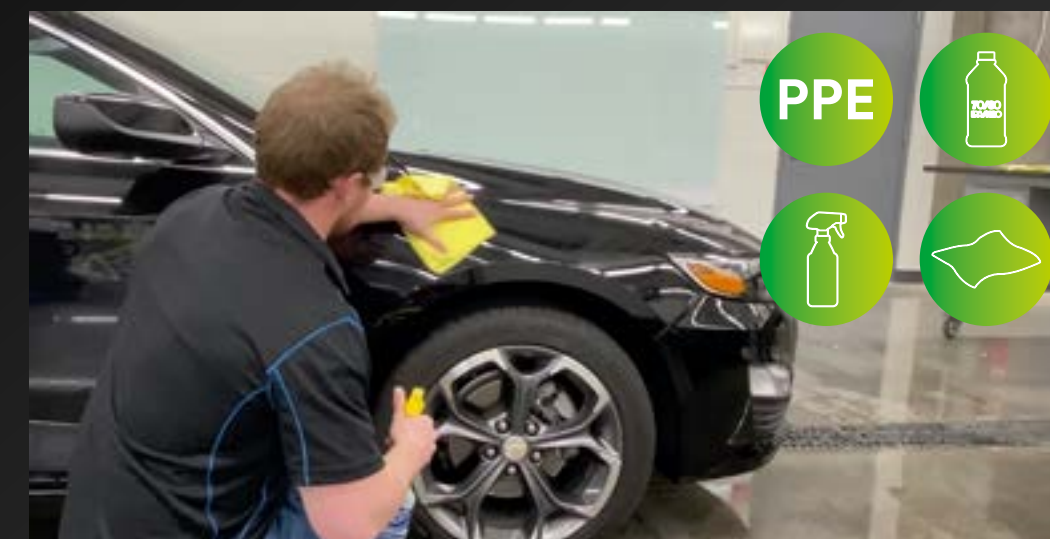


7

Clean the Vehicle Again

Clean the vehicle's entire surface with clean, lint-free microfibre cloths sprayed with 3M Surface Preparation System

Replace the clothes as they become dirty. A mixture of 70% isopropyl alcohol and 30% water can be an option if 3M Surface Preparation System is not available.



Always follow safety regulations

Operating Steps 1 – 4

1

Dedicated Vehicle Cleaning Day

3M recommends a dedicated day (typically the day before any film installation) for comprehensive inspection and cleaning of the vehicle, and to allow the vehicle surface to return to ambient temperatures. This allows for proper preparation and for the vehicle to fully dry from after the cleaning process.



2

Clean Individual Panels Prior to Film Installation

Clean an individual panel immediately prior to installing film on that panel. Clean the panel using clean, lint-free microfibre cloths sprayed with 3M Surface Preparation System.

Replace the clothes as they become dirty. A mixture of 70% isopropyl alcohol and 30% water can be an option if 3M Surface Preparation System is not available.



3

Install Film Over the Cleaned Panel

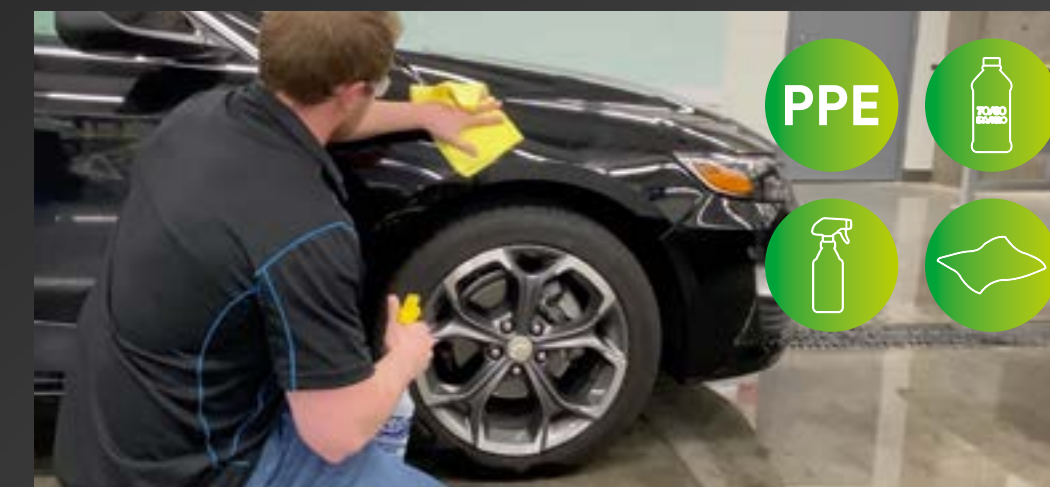
Immediately after cleaning a panel, install film over that panel. The less time there is between cleaning and film installation the smoother and cleaner the installation will go. See 3M Instruction Bulletin 5.36 for detailed instructions on installing film onto automobiles, vans, and buses.



4

Repeat

Repeat the cleaning process on each subsequent vehicle panel where film will be installed, immediately prior to installing film on that panel.



Always follow safety regulations

Operating Steps 1 – 3 (of 5)

1

Ground the Vehicle

Ground the vehicle to dissipate static electricity. This reduces the car's attraction of contaminants.



2

Install Tire Covers

Install tire covers to further reduce contaminant transfer to exposed vehicle surfaces and film adhesives.



3

Vacuum

Vacuum the shop floor and the vehicle's interior to reduce dust transfer when opening and closing the vehicle's doors during film installation.



Always follow safety regulations

Operating Steps 4 – 5 (of 5)

4

Wet the Floor

Wet the shop floor with soapy water in order to keep dust on the floor during vehicle cleaning and film installation.

Important note: Take care to avoid slipping on the wet floor.



5

Avoid Sweeping

Sweeping the floor moves dust from the floor into the air. Do NOT sweep immediately prior to or during vehicle cleaning or film installation.



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Health and Safety

This information is applicable to many of the procedures in this Bulletin. Please read and follow them.

CAUTION: When handling any chemical products, be sure to read the manufacturers' container labels and Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for important health, safety and environmental information. To obtain SDS sheets for 3M products, ask your 3M representative.

To avoid exposure to potentially hazardous materials, which if not avoided can cause serious bodily harm, wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as recommended by the product manufacturer, or as deemed necessary based on the results of an exposure assessment.

Such PPE may include impervious gloves (for example, butyl rubber gloves) and eye protection such as safety glasses or goggles.

When using any equipment, always follow the manufacturers' instructions for safe operation. Any activity performed for a long period of time in an awkward position or with a high amount of force is potentially a risk for causing musculoskeletal strain, pain or injury.

When applying or removing graphics, follow these practices to improve comfort and avoid injury:

- ▶ Alternate your tasks during the application
- ▶ Schedule regular breaks
- ▶ Perform stretches or do exercises to improve circulation
- ▶ Avoid awkward reaching



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Warranty Information

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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