



STEK

THE WORLD'S MOST ADVANCED PAINT PROTECTION FILMS

PAINT PROTECTION FILM Installation & Care

The following list is a summary of best practices for installing and caring for STEK top-coated thermal polyurethane (TPU) paint protection films, and are included for your review and for review with your customers. STEK strongly recommends that you follow these guidelines to assure a quality installation.

1. STEK top coated paint protection film (PPF) has a self-healing ability so light scratches can be removed by hot water or the use of a heat gun over the affected area. Note that if a scratch penetrates the topcoat, it will not self-heal. This is a characteristic of any top coated PPF.
2. During installation take care to avoid scratching from installation tools. We recommend using a rubber type squeegee for the installation (e.g., yellow or green Turbo squeegee). Even with the use of a rubber squeegee, scratches may occur. Therefore, please test your tools before installation to determine whether or not your tools will scratch.
3. Installation should be done in a clean area protected from airborne dust and other particulates that could result in surface scratching during installation.
4. Please test any wax or after-market sealant before applying to the PPF. Not all products are compatible with all PPF topcoats. Extremely hydrophobic PPF topcoats may interfere with application of wax or other coatings.
5. STEK recommends hand-washing cars protected with PPF. Although the topcoat may have self-healing abilities, using automated car washes increases the likelihood of surface scratching. Minor scratches can be recovered, however, more severe marks might not recover if, as noted, the scratch penetrates the topcoat.
6. Although STEK PPF is highly resistant to cracking, lift lines, and "chicken-skinning", be aware that applying too much force/stretching may damage the film. STEK PPF has enough flexibility for installation on tight corners, in depressions, etc. but the material does have its' limits. We recommend practicing/testing stretch-ability prior to your first installation(s) to determine the limits based on your personal application methods and style. Note that you can also use a heat gun when the PPF is stretched to increase flexibility. Again, we recommend that you test the material in advance.
7. Maintenance and Care Instructions (PPF and Top coated PPF)
 - a. Do not wash the vehicle for 48 hours after installation.
 - b. Avoid directly spraying the edges of the PPF with a pressure washer or a nozzle. Doing so may lift the edge of the film. If using a high pressure washer keep the nozzle at least 36" from the film surface (and avoid spraying the edges).
 - c. Do not use pigmented or abrasive waxes or waxes containing naphtha or kerosene.
 - d. Do not use any abrasive pads or harsh chemicals on the film.
 - e. If choosing to wax the car and film (after testing for compatibility) do so at least once every 6 months.
 - f. Remove stains as soon as possible. Stubborn stains can be removed with isopropyl alcohol. Avoid wiping the film in direct sunlight or if the film is hot.

PAINT PROTECTION FILM Material Handling & Storage

The following list is a summary of best practices for installing and caring for STEK top-coated thermal polyurethane (TPU) paint protection films, and are included for your review and for review with your customers. STEK strongly recommends that you follow these guidelines to assure a quality installation.

1. Do not put undue pressure on the surface of the film when it is still on the roll since a pressure mark might remain.
2. Handle the carton with care to avoid pressure marks from careless handling.
3. Inside of the roll, using typical packaging techniques, tape lines or edge lines might remain from the manufacturing process. In order to prevent those from occurring, STEK uses a sponge core. Generally, heat will remove any minor lines.
4. Gloss can be faded by pressure, long term storage, and high temperature, which is a characteristic of TPU film. The gloss can be recovered by using a heat-gun on the affected area. Protecting the high gloss prior to installation is why STEK uses a protective gloss enhancing sheet on top of the topcoat. This cap sheet must be removed upon install.
5. This product should be stored in an environment of under 32°C and 40% - 60% relative humidity.
6. STEK paint protection film should be used within one year from the date of purchase.
7. Re-packing a roll of film in a bigger or smaller box than the size of the roll can damage the film. Doing so could result in pressure marks, gloss out, embossing marks, etc. Therefore, STEK recommends using the original box and packaging for storage.
8. When rewinding or cutting in order to repack, please note that after re- packaging there might be surface marks (e.g., small "dots", twists, etc.) on the surface because of dirt or dust contamination. If you are repackaging the film, please insure that you work on clean surfaces and in a clean environment.
9. After using part of a roll of film do not repack it loosely. Keep the film as it was originally packaged - rolled tight and held in place by taping. STEK films have surface protection sheets so please be aware that tunneling might occur if the roll is not rewound tightly or rewound in the reverse direction.
10. Adhesive characteristics may vary between winter and summer (if the application environment is not climate controlled). This is a characteristic of the material. In cold weather particularly, apply the film on vehicles only in an environment of greater than 10°C.
11. Water mixed with a neutral detergent or IPA (Isopropyl alcohol) can be generally used as a pre-handling liquid before applying the film. Initial adhesive tack can vary depending on proportion of IPA to be mixed in the water.
12. Contact manufacturer when using PPF for non-automotive applications, as material size, packaging and adhesive specification might need to be changed.
13. NOTE: STEK has no responsibility for damage caused by mishandling, improper storage, re-cutting, re-packing, not (re)using a sponge core or storage for more than one year.



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