

Scotchgard™ Frequently Asked Questions

Will Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film harm the painted surface if the film is removed?

If Scotchgard film is properly applied to a fully cured painted vehicle, it can be removed, usually in one piece, without damaging paint surfaces beneath the film.

Can Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film be applied over a vehicle that has had the paint touched up?

3M recommends that any repainted surfaces on your vehicle be professionally painted and fully cured before applying Scotchgard film. If you have touched up scratches or chips with a tube of "touch-up" paint and then apply Scotchgard film over it, the film will protect that area until it is removed. If the Scotchgard film is removed, it is possible that the area around the non-professional touch-up paint could peel off.

Can Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film be applied over a newly painted vehicle?

The paint on a newly painted vehicle must be fully cured according to paint manufacturer's recommendations before installing Scotchgard film. Your body shop should be able to provide you with this information.

Can you paint or apply a clearcoat over the Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film?

No, this is not recommended and is at your own risk. Scotchgard film is supplied with an OEM-approved clearcoat, which is not formulated to be over-printed, painted or clearcoated.

How do I remove a scratch or swirl mark from my Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film?

You can treat Scotchgard film just as you treat paint. 3M Car Care products, like 3M™ One Step Cleaner Wax or 3M™ Scratch Remover, can be used to remove light scratches.

Can I cover the whole vehicle with Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film?

Scotchgard film can be applied to any painted surface on a vehicle.

Does 3M make a Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film for headlights?

Due to headlight regulations in the United States, headlights cannot be covered.

Can Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film be applied over graphics?

Generally, Scotchgard film can be applied over graphics; however, if Scotchgard film is removed, damage may occur to the underlying graphic during the removal process.

Does Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film stick to bumpers or plastic?

Yes.

Can Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film be used on boats or other watercraft?

Yes. Scotchgard film is effective on applications above the water line, the sides to protect from docks, the deck to protect from foot traffic, and over teak and other woods to help preserve them. Marine requirements are different than automotive, so it is important to contact with 3M customer service to help answer specific questions. 1-800-3M-HELPS.

Can Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film be used on aircraft?

Aircraft requirements are different from automotive, so it is important to contact 3M's Aerospace Division for information on these applications. Please call 1-888-364-3577 for assistance or email the Aerospace Division directly.

Can Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film be used for signs?

Scotchgard film would likely adhere, but you would need to test any specific application. 3M has no specific testing data for signs, so no warranty can be offered.

Does Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film resist yellowing?

Yes, a clear coat layer on Scotchgard film contains UV protectants to counteract harmful ultraviolet rays that can cause yellowing.

Will Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film change the color of my paint when I remove it?

Scotchgard film will not affect the color of the paint. Because the paint has been protected, the main difference will be gloss level. The gloss retention is better where the paint has been protected.

Does Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film come in colors?

Scotchgard film is available only as a clear film. This feature makes the film virtually invisible while protecting the beauty of your vehicle.

How is Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film maintained?

Once applied, refrain from washing the vehicle in an automated car wash for 24 hours. Washing after that time presents no problem, and regular waxing helps maintain the beauty of Scotchgard film.

Can I use wax over Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film?

Yes. 3M recommends you wax your vehicle with 3M™ Performance Finish Synthetic Wax (3M Part #39030). If wax or dirt builds up along the Scotchgard film edges, use a 3M™ Microfiber Detail Cloth (3M Part #06016) to remove it. Do not use any waxes containing dyes or waxes that are not recommended for urethanes. Abrasive polishes and/or rubbing compounds are not to be used.

What products does 3M recommend to best maintain Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film?

3M makes a variety of products to help maintain the beauty of your vehicle. View our [3M Car Care Products](#) website. Start with 3M™ Car Wash Soap (3M Part #39000), follow up with 3M™ Performance Finish Synthetic Wax (3M Part #39030) using a 3M™ Microfiber Detail Cloth (3M Part #06016). Other cloths may scratch the surface of the Scotchgard film.

How can I remove bug acid stains from Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film?

First, try this **immediately** – wash with soap and warm water. If that doesn't remove it completely, use rubbing alcohol on the stain. After this, let the vehicle sit in the sun to help bleach the stains. This may take a few days and you should not wax Scotchgard film until the stains are gone.

Does heat affect the Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Film's performance?

No. Scotchgard film was designed to meet Automotive OEM requirements.