

Applying Paint Protection Films on Objects



GrafjGuard GG10 – GG15 – GG20

Introductory remarks.

A brief preceding study will save you a lot of time and will guarantee a better end result. Always check the following points :

- What kind of surface do the vinyls need to be applied onto, and is this surface suited for self adhesive films?
- This transparent polyurethane film is extremely suited for protecting a surface against stone chips, scratches, ...

GG10, GG15 and GG20 are extremely deformable
They are also suited for protecting car head lights.

The Preparation.

Make sure all necessary equipment and materials are ready at hand before starting the job.
Pay attention to your own safety and health. Take into account all safety prescriptions of the suppliers when using electric equipment and products that are necessary to complete the job successfully.

Tip: Check whether certain materials are suited for self adhesive films. This can be done very easily. Clean the surface thoroughly and do the drop test. If you pour water of this surface, it shouldn't form drops. If drops appear on the surface, the material is not suited for wrapping with any material. A structured surface also means a reduced adhesion, which is not to be advised.

Cleaning.

- Vehicles need to be cleaned thoroughly at least 1 day before applying films on them.
- Use a simple detergent to wash the vehicle and rinse it abundantly, or go to the car wash. Make sure that no dust, sand or mud stay behind in small cracks or indents. Use compressed air to dry all cracks and protection strips of the vehicle.
- After washing the vehicle, allow it to acclimatize for a night in the workshop.
- Make sure all wax and polishing products have been removed completely. In most cases these have not been removed completely from new vehicles. They have to be removed by means of industrial cleaning products or a silicone remover (isopropanol is not sufficient in this case)
- Avoid damage to rubber and plastic car parts when using some corrosive products.
- When everything is completely clean, the complete surface needs to be cleaned once again with isopropanol.
- Other objects to be wrapped always need to be cleaned and degreased thoroughly before you start wrapping them.
- If you need to apply the vinyl on sawn panels, it is of utmost importance that the sawn edges of these panels are cleaned thoroughly. Use compressed air to do so. After all, a lot of dust creeps into these edges, which is electrostatically attracted by the vinyl and thus gets in between the vinyl and the panel.

The Application.

Tip: Make sure the workshop is dust-free, that the necessary ambient temperature has been reached, and that the job can not be complicated by direct sunlight or by a heat source. Also make sure the floor is completely clean, as the vinyl gets statically loaded during the application process, thus attracting dust very easily.

Tip: Wash your hands thoroughly before working with this film. Remember that this is a transparent film – any fingerprint on the glue layer will always remain visible.

The films are always wet.

- Run a couple of tests first. They can save you a lot of work. Apply a test strip on the body of the car or on any other substrate that you wish to apply the film on, and check the adhesive strength.
- This film can be used perfectly for 2D and 3D deformations.
- Even though the polyurethane films can be stretched up to 300%, they should not be stretched for more than 10% during the application to guarantee a faultless result.

The tools:

- Soft squeegee / rubber squeegee
- Slip solution and tack solution
- Cutting knife
- Heat gun
- Extension cord
- Sufficient light
- Roll of tape
- Electric current
- Meter, felt-tip, pencil ...

The preparation:

- Place the film (with its backing paper) on the surface. Use paper tape or magnetic holders to do so.
- Always avoid cutting in the paintwork or on glass. This can cause scratches and later even rust marks.
- Apply some reference points where vinyl and car body meet, so you can easily place the vinyl at its exact position again.

The application of the vinyl: see manual 6 (Protection Films) in the download section of our websites www.grafityp.com and www.grafiwrap.com.

After the job has been completed.

- Leave the car or the panels in the workshop for a night, so they can get used to their new coating. Allow them to cool down in the acclimatized area slowly.

Cleaning and Maintenance.

- The car can be washed in a car wash without any problems after about three days.
- We advise you not to clean the vehicle with a high-pressure cleaner.

Polyurethane is a soft material. Therefore the cleaning and maintenance shall only be executed with non-scouring cleaning agents, without strong solvents or corrosive ingredients.

Removal of the GrafiGuard films.

GrafiGuard films have been developed especially not to leave behind any glue residues after removing them. If you wish to remove the film, we advise you to heat it with a heat gun. Pull off the film under an angle of 90°. If any glue residues stay behind on the surface, they can be removed with isopropanol.

Tip: If any glue residues stay behind, this is often because the car body is too cold. GrafiGuard films are preferably removed at a car body temperature between 50°C and 60°C. Always wait for a moment until the heat has reached the area between the adhesive layer and the paintwork, the panel or the shop window, and things will become much easier. You will find the right balance between heating and removing the vinyl after some practice.