



# Surface Protection Films

Technical Data Sheet

April 2008

For Professional Installers

For Canadian Use Only

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**Purpose** This technical update outlines the improvements and differences between 3M™ Surface Protection Film (SPF) and 3M™ Paint Protection Film (PPF) 8592. It highlights application techniques and material handling to allow for a smooth transition and successful application.

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**General Description** 3M has significantly improved the ease of application, handling and cutting of 3M SPF, as well as accelerating the application time.

Recommended application procedures have not changed, and you should reference either the official 3M installation CD/DVD or Application Guide for Scotchgard™ Paint Protection Films in the Technical Update 2-14. Application information is also available on our website at [www.3M.com/PaintProtectionFilm](http://www.3M.com/PaintProtectionFilm).

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**Product Installation/Improvements** *Installers will notice the following improvements:*

1. Aesthetics: The film has a higher gloss and improved clarity. It is weather resistant and it will not fade.
2. Handling: The film has a new liner, which offers a consistent, easier release that improves weeding and part removal. The liner has a more consistent appearance, and is water resistant.
3. Cutting: The film is plotter friendly and cuts easily due to the new thicker, lay-flat liner. The film also hand trims more easily and cuts with less pressure.

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**Shelf Life and Storage**

1. One year from date of receipt.
2. Acceptable storage conditions: 40°F – 80°F (4°C-27°C) and 0-95% relative humidity.
3. Recommended storage conditions for optimum shelf life: 72°F (22°C) and 50% relative humidity.

When storing a pre-cut 3M™ Digital Design Pattern Kit:

1. Reverse roll the kit, so the liner shows the 3M logo on the outside of the rolled kit.
2. The reverse rolled kit should be no smaller than 2 ¾” inches in diameter and should fit in a 3” tube.
3. Winding the kit any tighter than 2 ¾” inches or winding it with the film side out can affect the film stability.

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**Solutions/Equipment** 3M SPF requires the following solutions and equipment for proper installation:

1. Soap Solution: Mix Johnson’s® Baby Shampoo or Aveeno® Baby Wash and Shampoo and water in a 16 oz. spray bottle by adding 4 drops of shampoo to 16 oz. of clean tap water. Mix well and label as “Soap Solution.”
2. Alcohol Solution: In a 16 oz. spray bottle, mix isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol 70%) with clean tap water. Use 25% (4 oz.) alcohol mixed with 75% (12 oz.) water. Mix well and label as “Alcohol Solution.” \*
3. Use of a proper squeegee is important for good application of the film. 3M

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**Solutions/Equipment Continued...** recommends the use of the 3M orange urethane squeegee and/or the yellow turbo squeegee for best results. Use of a hard squeegee, an old squeegee or lack of lubricate (Soap Solution) could scratch the surface of the 3M SPF. Do not use the Alcohol Solution as a squeegee lubricant.

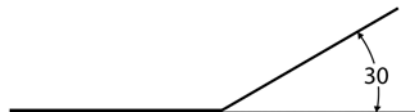
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**Important Application Updates:** Here are key items for installers to know when installing 3M SPF:

1. The stretch of the 3M™ Surface Protection Film is very similar to 3M™ 8592 Paint Protection Film. This was done to keep application time to a minimum.
2. The 3M SPF cuts and trims about the same way as 3M PPF. It is recommended that samples be cut on the plotter to assure a clean cut of the film with no cutting into the liner. Observe the cuts and make any adjustments necessary. Initial trials with the 3M SPF did not require any plotter knife adjustments. Trimming could be easier than 3M™ 8592 Paint Protection Film and it is recommended that test cuts be made before hand trimming on a painted surface or vehicle.
3. The improved, thicker liner also makes the handling of the film different. Trials have shown the new liner to plotter cut more consistently and easily. However, you may want to observe cuts initially to assure the thickness of the liner has not changed the cutting parameters of your plotter.
4. The new liner is also more water resistant. Again, handling of the cut kits may be slightly different than what you are used to. Taking time to become more comfortable with the new liner and its properties can eliminate unforeseen problems.
5. The recommended film removal technique from a vehicle is to pull smoothly and consistently at a 90-degree angle rather than the current 45-degree angle. The film will remove more easily and without adhesive picking or residue transferring to the vehicle.

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**Removal** The film can be removed at any time, if desired. Lift a corner of the film and remove with a pulling action using a 30° to 90° degree angle.



If the film is difficult to remove due to age or cold temperatures, then a steamer can be used. 3M recommends a wallpaper or clothes steamer, which is available in stores nationwide. Steam softens the film and makes it easier to remove. Using the steam removal method, the adhesive stays on the film during removal, requiring less adhesive clean-up.

A heat gun or hair dryer can also be used to soften the adhesive. This method may cause the adhesive to split, which will require more adhesive to be cleaned off of the vehicle.

If any adhesive remains on the vehicle after removal of the film, it can be removed by using 3M™ General Purpose Adhesive Cleaner (3M Part #08984 or #08987), 3M™ Woodgrain and Stripe Adhesive Remover (3M Part #08908) according to the package directions or 3M™ Natural/Citrus Cleaner. These products are available on the 3M e-store – [www.3Mestore.com](http://www.3Mestore.com) If these products are not available, Rapid Remover (a non-3M product) adhesive remover works well.

\*Note: When using solvents, extinguish all ignition sources, including pilot lights and follow the manufacturer's precautions and directions for use.

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**Maintenance:** After initial application of 3M Surface Protection Film, do NOT wash vehicle in high-pressure car wash for 24 hours. After that time, wash and wax your vehicle as you normally would. Avoid spraying the edges of the film with a pressure washer or a hose to reduce the chance of lifting the edges of the film. For added protection, 3M recommends waxing the vehicle and film with 3M Performance Finish 39030 to help maintain the gloss levels. Wax build-up along the film edges may be removed with a 3M™ Perfect-It Detail Cloth, a soft brush or a Q-tip® Cotton Swab.

**Do not pressure** wash your car for **24 hours**.

**Never** use pigmented waxes.

**Never** use paste waxes.

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**3M**

Automotive Division

3M Canada Company

Post Office Box 5757

London, Ontario N6A 4T1

Canada

[www.3M.com/paintprotectionfilm](http://www.3M.com/paintprotectionfilm)



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