



Questions and Answers

for 3M™ Wrap Film Series 1080

1. **Can I use an overlaminate?** 3M does not recommend or warrant using an overlaminate or clear coat on this film, which has an inherent texture that can be altered by an overlaminate. Customers may use only on a test-and-approve basis and where they are ready to assume all risk.
2. **Can I print on film series 1080?** 3M does not recommend or warrant printing on this film. If printed, an overlaminate would provide protection for the ink, but could alter the appearance of the film. Customers who choose to print on the film must do so on a test-and-approve basis and assume all risk.
3. **Are stripes in carbon fiber films normal?** Yes. All films in this series have some texture that is integral in creating these unique looks. The carbon fiber films have the most texture, which appears to have more depth, or texture, in certain lighting conditions, giving a striped look.
4. **Do certain colors, such as Satin Pearl White, appear to change color if applied in different directions?** Yes. Certain film colors, such as satin pearl white and the brushed metal colors, have a directional characteristic in their appearance. For the best overall appearance, do not alternate between lengthwise and widthwise graphic panels. Also film colors can vary slightly from lot-to-lot. For the most consistent looking color, use the same lot number of film for an entire vehicle.
5. **Installation tools**
 - A. **Masking tape** Always use masking tape to mark alignment. Do not use a grease pencil, which will embed in the film's texture, and attempting to remove it may damage the texture.
 - B. **Covered squeegee** The unique finish on film series 1080 is sensitive to scratches and requires careful handling during installation. We recommend using a high density felt squeegee or covering the edge of a 3M™ Applicator PA1-G (gold) with the loop side of 3M™ Scotchmate™ Reclosable Hook and Loop Fastener - Loop portion SJ-35231.zl
 - C. **Heat gun** A heat gun, instead of a torch, must be used. A torch is likely to alter the appearance of the finish permanently, which cannot be repaired.
 - D. **Roller** The 3M™ Rapid Roller Applicator CPA-2 can be used on flat areas, such as the hood or roof, to minimize the chance of scratching the film during installation.
6. **Do I need to use an application tape?** This new film series features a dual cast construction that is 3.5 mil thick. It has just enough rigidity to allow easy installation without an overlaminate or application tape. Due to the film's texture, application tape may not work well with cut and prespaced graphics. Customers may choose to test and approve an application tape. 3M™ Prespacing Tape SCPS-55 is a good one to try.
7. **Can I apply film series 1080 to an older vehicle?** All wrap films, including film series 1080, should be applied to a "like new" vehicle finish for the best results. 3M's warranty only applies to vehicles that have an excellent bond of the paint and its finish to the vehicle substrate. Any rust, bubbling, scratches, dents or other damage will be visible through the film, and such surface imperfections may damage the film or cause the film to fail.
8. **Does film series 1080 install the same way as film IJ180Cv3?** Installation is very similar to 3M™ Controltac™ Graphic Film with Comply™ Adhesive IJ180Cv3. Film series 1080 has the same features as film IJ180Cv3, that is, slideable and repositionable adhesive with virtually invisible air release channels. But be aware of these important differences.
 1. Align the graphic using masking tape, never a grease pencil.
 2. Use a covered or felt edge squeegee, not a hard rubber squeegee.
 3. Use a heat gun, not a torch.
9. **Is a primer required on complex curves?** Primer can help any film adhere to deep channels and complex contours. Please refer to [3M Instruction Bulletin 5.36](#) for recommendations.
10. **Can I wet apply film series 1080?** No. 3M does not recommend or warrant wet installations for any film with air release channels. To find an installer who can do dry installations, go to www.3Mgraphics.com.

11. Special Application Considerations for Carbon Fiber and Brushed Metal Finishes

Because of the unique patterns designed into these films for their realistic looking finish, improper application techniques show more readily on these finishes. Proper stretching and heating of the film are essential to avoid creating visual imperfections, which can appear as dents, bends, stretch marks or kinks in the finish. See FIGURE 1.

To ensure a successful application:

- stretch large sections of the film. Stretching the film in smaller sections may cause a series of stretch marks at every location where you started and stopped stretching.
- always apply an even tension when stretching the film. Avoid applying too much force in one particular area, which may distort the film's finish.
- apply as little heat as necessary to stretch the film. Typically, do not exceed 150°F (66°C).
- avoid applying heat directly at the location where the film attaches to the substrate.

FIGURE 1
Proper techniques ensure a professional looking wrap

Carbon Fiber shown on top
Brushed Metal on bottom



12. How do I remove fingerprints?

The matte product may show finger prints, but they can be cleaned off after the installation is complete by saturating a clean, lint free towel with a 2:1 mixture of Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA) and water or straight rubbing alcohol, and then wiping and drying the film.

13. How do I remove stains?

Try a household cleaner such as Simply Green®, and a lint-free cloth, followed by the technique used for How do I remove fingerprints.

14. Can scratches be removed?

Many surface scratches will disappear when exposed to the sunlight on warm days. Otherwise, surface scratches may be removed:

- using an isopropyl alcohol and water mixture (ratio 70:30) or 70% rubbing alcohol.
- by heating the film surface with a heat gun. Typically, do not exceed 225°F (107°C). See FIGURE 2.

Deeper scratches will not come out. Always use care to avoid scratching during installation, maintenance, use and storage of the applied film.

FIGURE 2
Circled area shows surface scratches removed with heat gun



15. How do I maintain a vehicle wrap?

A. Gentle cleaning is best

Care for your vehicle wrap like you would any fine paint finish. Using high quality products designed specifically for car care and these cleaning and maintenance procedures will help keep your 3M vehicle wraps looking their best. *See the next page for more details.*

- Soften difficult contaminants such as bug splatter, bird droppings, tree sap and similar contaminants by soaking them for several minutes with very hot, soapy water. Rinse thoroughly and dry. If further cleaning is needed, test one of these products in an inconspicuous area to ensure no damage to the wrap: Meguiar's Gold Class™ Bug and Tar Remover or 3M™ Citrus Base Cleaner. Isopropyl alcohol (IPA) (two parts IPA to one part water) or denatured alcohol may also help. Spot clean the contaminants. Do not use rough scrubbing or abrasive tools, which will scratch the film. Wash and rinse off all residue immediately.
- For the best results, use hand washing and a wet, non-abrasive detergent such as 3M™ Car Wash Soap 39000 or Meguiar's NXT Generation® Car Wash or Deep Crystal® Car Wash and a soft, clean cloth or sponge.
- Always rinse thoroughly with clean water. To reduce water spotting, immediately use a silicone squeegee to remove water and finish with a clean microfiber cloth.

B. Power washing is an option

- You can take the vehicle through a brushless car wash.
- Pressure washing may be used under these conditions.
 - Ensure the water pressure is kept below 2000 psi (14 MPa).
 - Keep water temperature below 80°C (180°F).
 - Use a spray nozzle with a 40 degree wide angle spray pattern.
 - Keep the nozzle at least 1 foot (300 mm) away from and perpendicular (at 90 degrees) to the graphic.

NOTE: Holding the nozzle of a pressure washer at an angle to the graphic may lift the edges of the film.

- For the best results, hand dry as described in Item 12.A.

C. Film restoration

The following recommendations will help keep your vehicle wraps looking their best. Remember that the films in this series have an inherent texture that can be filled in when using the wrong products, improper application, or excessive use, resulting in a haze that may not be easy to remove.

- Do not use an abrasive polishes or cutting compounds.
- Do not apply waxes or polishes to the matte, satin, carbon fiber and brushed metal texture finishes.
- Use if there is wax or wax residue on the surface, remove with an all-purpose cleaner.
- Table 1 shows some available products to help restore your wrap. Before using, always test and approve in an inconspicuous area before using on the entire wrap.

**TABLE 1
Restoration Alternatives**

Film or Finish Type	Product or Solution
Smooth Gloss Texture	3M™ Perfect-it™ Show Car Paste Wax 39526 Meguiar's Gold Class™ Carnuaba Plus Premium Liquid Wax
Matte or Satin Texture	Isopropyl alcohol and water (ratio 2:1)
Matte White (1080-M10) Carbon Fiber White (1080-CF10)	Based on type/degree of contamination, use one or more of these solutions, <i>in the order shown</i> , to remove any build-up: 1. Hot, soapy water solution 2. Isopropyl alcohol (IPA) and water (ratio 2:1) 3. Simple Green® All-Purpose Cleaner 4. Household chlorine bleach; followed by IPA/water (#2) 5. Mineral spirits; followed by IPA/water (#2)
Carbon Fiber Black (1080-CF12)	Meguiar's Ultimate Black Plastic Restorer

D. Film series 1080 can be removed

Film series 1080 is warranted to be removable for up to three years after installation, providing the film has not been printed and no overlaminates have been applied. Heat and/or chemicals may be required. Some adhesive residue may be left on the vehicle, which can be easily cleaned off with a product such as 3M™ Citrus Base Cleaner.

Refer to [3M Product Bulletin 1080](#) and [3M Instruction Bulletin 6.5](#) for more details.

E. Removal should not cause damage

When used, applied, maintained and removed within the Warranty Period according to 3M's instructions, film series 1080 should not damage an OEM paint finish upon removal.

F. Store the car indoors when possible

Wrap films (just like paint) are degraded by prolonged exposure to sun and atmospheric pollutants, particularly on the horizontal surfaces such as hood, trunk lid and roof. Whenever possible, store in a garage or at least in a shaded area during the day. At night, protect the car from dew or rain, which may contain acidic pollutants (a common problem in many large metropolitan areas). When a garage is not available, consider using a cloth car cover at night. If your wrap film starts to discolor or turn brown (which is caused by acidic pollution), immediately have a professional remove the wrap film from the vehicle to avoid staining the underlying paint.

16. More information on the web!

To see the newest additions to this exciting product offering and to learn more product details: www.3Mgraphics.com/1080

3M warranty information: www.3Mgraphics.com/Warranties.

17. Disclaimer

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