

PAINT PROTECTION BRANDS

Xpel Ultimate (8mil)

Xpel Ultimate is our premium paint protection film offering. What we love about this film is that it is built on a new architecture that resists contaminants that would otherwise stain or turn conventional films yellow. For example, permanent marker and spray paint can be cleaned off of this film because the pores are closed, which means the film is much more resistant to staining and discoloration from road grime and other contaminants. And, we absolutely love the fact that this paint protection film has a self-healing top coat! Built with the same clear-coat technology that Nissan introduced on its GTR sports car, fine scratches and swirl marks literally “heal” over time which means that this film will stay looking nice longer than other films. Xpel Ultimate also comes in 60-inch widths which mean we can cover entire hoods in a single piece!

Xpel Ultimate Paint Protection film carries a 10 year warranty against, yellowing, cracking, peeling, staining, and hazing, covering both film and labor. See the FAQ on Xpel Ultimate Paint Protection Film, or see a YouTube clip here: [Xpel Ultimate Demonstration Video](#)

Avery Nano Fusion (8mil)

Avery was the first company we are aware of to introduce a paint protection film that has closed pores, much like the new Xpel Ultimate film has now. When Avery Nano Fusion first came out we loved the film because it was super stain resistant and had a deep, rich, glossy finish. We also liked how the film installed, because it was less prone to stretch marks and premature adhesive tacks. But Avery experienced production problems and were not able to consistently produce production levels of quality film. For the better part of a year, the film has been virtually unavailable in usable quantities.

It is rumored that Avery has fixed it’s production problems and that Nano Fusion will again be available in limited quantities in late June. When Nano Fusion becomes available again, we will test it to see if we are going to again offer it as part of our product lineup.

Xpel Extreme (8mil)

A urethane-core film with a super smooth, deep gloss surface. Comes 60-inches wide to cover entire hoods and fenders and is a less expensive alternative to Xpel Ultimate or Avery Nano Fusion. Requires regular application of Xpel sealant wax.

3M (8mil and 12mil)

3M is a well-known film manufacturer and the original company to pioneer use of urethane film to protect paint. We installed 3M film for several years, because at that time we felt it was the best film available. However, even with 3M’s acquisition of Venture, we feel that Xpel’s Ultimate and Avery’s Nano Fusion have advantages over 3M film. We carry 3M film for customers who prefer it, and we do like that it is available in a 12mil thickness for flat, high-impact areas such as behind the rear wheels of pickups.

WE KNOW THESE PRODUCTS INSIDE AND OUT. ASK ALL THE QUESTIONS YOU LIKE.

WINDOW TINT BRANDS

Transguard carries 2 brands of window film.

SunTek

Several years ago we started carrying SunTek window film as a less expensive alternative to our high-end tint offerings. But in the ensuing years, SunTek has become, in our opinion, is the best film on the market for the money. For example, SunTek's Carbon signal-enabling film and their CXP signal-enabling film have higher performance values than more expensive ceramic films. And, the lifetime warranty covers all the items you want to be covered, such as cracking, peeling, bubbling, color change, and fading.

Llumar

The company that invented window tint became Llumar, and as the original window-film manufacturer their experience in the industry is unsurpassed. We carry Llumar window film for our super tech-savvy customers who want to have the best of best.

(FAQ) PAINT PROTECTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the difference between 3M, Xpel, Avery, and other Films?

All urethane paint protection films are made from the same extruded urethane pellets, although there are rumblings that at least one manufacturer is coming out with a non-extruded urethane film, which could be significant. So, the main difference among films is that the adhesive layers and the topcoats are each different. Because of this, some films are more pliable; some gloss coats are more durable; some are easier to install. Transguard follows the industry carefully, and we offer what we feel are the best films and associated products available.

Will Paint Protection Film Turn Yellow?

This can be a trick question. While the urethane itself does not typically turn yellow, conventional urethane films have open pores that can collect road grime and other environmental pollutants. So, while such films may not technically be turning "yellow" they can certainly look discolored.

Newer films such as Xpel Ultimate and Avery Nano Fusion are much more resistant to yellowing, because, in the simplest terms, these new paint protection films have closed pores. Having a film with closed pores means that pollutants do not settle into the pores of the film. Rather, road grime and other environmental pollutants sit on top of the film and can usually be cleaned off more easily than with conventional paint protection film.

In either case, keeping your clear mask clean and sealed with a synthetic polymer wax that has no petroleum distillates is the best thing you can do to keep it looking nice and clear.

Is it Better to Use Pre-Cut Patterns or to use Bulk Film for a Custom Fit?

It used to be that an installer could get better coverage using bulk film to custom fit a clear mask. However, as pattern-making has improved and as films have become more conformable, an installer can generally do cleaner installs, with better coverage, by using pre-cut patterns. However, beware that not all pre-cut patterns are the same. For example a certain pattern from one company might use multiple pieces while the same pattern from a different company uses a single piece. Single-piece patterns typically use more film and are harder to install, but they usually result in a better mask. TWO CAUTIONS: (1) If your installer uses patterns, have him or her show you the patterns on screen so you can compare it to others you may be looking at. If the installer will not show you the patterns it probably means that the shop does not cut their own patterns, which can be a sign of inexperience. (2) If your installer uses bulk film to custom fit, make sure they have ample experience with custom fitting. Custom fitting requires significantly more decision making and trimming than using patterns does. That means your installer must be very experienced with how to cover difficult areas and he or she must be steady and very light-handed with a blade.

Should Paint Protection Film be Waxed?

Yes, but not necessarily with your favorite wax. Transguard recommends Xpel Paint Protection Sealant, which is formulated specifically for paint protection film. As a second choice, but not as desirable as the Xpel sealant, Transguard recommends Zymol Cleaner Wax. Waxing your film with the right sealant will help keep pollutants from settling into the pores of the film; however, many waxes have dye, kerosene, or other petroleum distillates that are harmful to the urethane. As a rule, you should avoid using dyed paste waxes and Carnuba waxes on your clear mask.

What if I Don't Want a Line on my Hood?

While a line across the hood where the material stops is very unobtrusive (the material is only 8 thousandths of an inch thick) and does not bother most people, the entire hood can be covered on most vehicles. Customers who choose to have the entire hood covered usually also have both front fenders fully covered so that the entire front clip is protected, with no visible line.

(FAQ) WINDOW TINT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How dark can my tint be in Idaho?

Passenger Car

35% on the front-doors and the backglass.

20% on the rear side windows.

Multiple Purpose Vehicle (e.g. pickup, van, suburban, other)

35% on the front doors.

No limit on the side windows or the backglass, as long as the vehicle has adequate side-view mirrors.

An Explanation of Window Tint Shade

Window tint shades are defined by the amount of light the tint lets through. For example, a shade of 35% (medium shade) means the film allows 35 percent of the visible light to come through. Likewise, a shade of 20% (dark shade) means that only 20 percent of the visible light passes through the tint. So, tint numbers work just the opposite of what many people think. The lower the number, the darker the shade. Limo tint is typically about 5%

Each state has different laws regarding shade. (See also [Is Illegal Tint a Big Deal?](#))

What do you mean, “Not all tint blocks heat?”

Sometimes a tint shop will offer a great price on window tinting, but what you get for your money is a dyed film that does not really block any heat and is likely to fade, turn purple, and bubble over time. Many shops offer dyed window tint, but do not tell you so, which allows them to offer a low price. Likewise, many new-car dealerships put dyed window tint on their cars, because it makes vehicles attractive to buyers, but it doesn’t cost much for them to have it put on. (See also [What is Metalized Film?](#))

What is metalized tint?

Metalized window tint has one or more “layers” of actual metal in the film. Metalized window tint usually blocks significantly more heat than dyed window tint and is significantly less likely to fade, discolor, or get bubbles. Keep in mind that metalized films vary in how much heat they block. And, some metalized films are reflective, which means they have a mirrored look from the outside.

CAUTION: While metalized is great for heat blocking, the metal in the film can interfere with tire-pressure sensor systems (TPS) and other signals such as AM radio, keyless entry systems, and cell-phone reception. (See also [Signal Enabling Window Films](#))

Does “Lifetime Warranty” mean it’s a good film?

No! Some warranties cover things like bubbling, but do not cover things like color change or fading. And, just because a film comes with a “lifetime warranty,” it doesn’t mean the film is high-quality. Sometimes the “lifetime” part of the warranty only covers certain items. For example, in our shop one of our lines of “lifetime warranty” tint does not cover fading, while the other line does. So, while a lifetime warranty may be legitimate, you need to know exactly what the warranty covers and how it works.

Is illegal tint a big deal?

Yes! And it’s about more than getting a ticket! If you have a traffic accident and the accident report notes that you have illegal tint—or even if the other party notices and decides to point that fact out, your insurance company can refuse to cover you. That puts you in line for a potential lawsuit. And it also puts the shop that tinted your car in line for a potential lawsuit, even if the shop had you sign a waiver.

Does bubbled tint mean someone tried to install it themselves?

Not necessarily. Bubbled tint usually has more to do with low-quality film than it does with poor installation. Bubbles occur in window tint when the adhesive layer begins to separate from the tint layer. This process is called delamination, and it gets progressively worse over time.

My factory tint doesn't block heat? Really?

The factory tinted windows on many SUVs is simply dye in the glass. The dark glass does provide some glare reduction, but it does not usually block much heat. If you want to get more heat rejection from your factory tinted windows, there are very light window films that still block heat and that can be installed over factory tinted windows. Transguard just carries such a film.

What are signal-enabling window films?

With some vehicles, metalized window tint can interfere with things such as tire-pressure sensor systems, AM radio signals, keyless entry systems, and even cell phone reception. For such cases there are specialty films that block heat but that do not have any metal in them. Some companies offer ceramic window tints, while others offer a ceramic-type equivalent. In either case, if you drive a newer vehicle that has tire-pressure sensors, you should probably consider a signal-enabling film. Transguard carries a line of signal-enabling window tint that has no metal in it but that has excellent heat rejection, and an excellent lifetime warranty.