

Applying Films and Decals Over Recently Refinished Surfaces

There are several variables to consider when deciding to apply paint protective films, vehicle wraps, decals, or stripe tapes to newly painted surfaces. These products are developed by a number of manufacturers that each have varying specifications regarding film weight, permeability, and adhesive properties, among others. These differences necessitate the evaluation of application situations on a case-by-case basis when it relates to their use over recently applied paint systems.

This Technical Service Bulletin (TSB) provides general guidelines to assist technicians in determining the time needed before applying adhesive plastic films – minimizing the risk of negative outcomes due to residual solvents being trapped in the paint film.

The following information is based on time after following the TDS recommended drying/curing guidance:

| <u>Stripe/Decal Size</u> | <u>Suggested Minimum Time After Cure</u> |
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| • Pinstripes ¼" or smaller width | – 24 hours |
| • Stripe tape 1" – 2" width | – 48 hours |
| • Large Decals & thicker stripes 2" – 6" width | – 1 week |
| • Vehicle wraps & decals over 6" width | – 30+ days |

Product TDS Guidelines

Adhering to the TDS application recommendations for *all* applied components of the repair system (flash times, film build, curing specifications, etc.) may also reduce the time needed for the paint system to completely outgas. Additionally, the overall film thickness of the applied paint system should be taken into consideration. Repairs which include surfacers, sealers, multiple layers of basecoat and clearcoats may require extended times before applying decals.

Additional Drying Methods

It is possible to implement additional drying methods which may decrease the suggested amount of time needed before applying the plastic film. Supplementary forced drying using infrared lamps or through additional booth baking cycles or extended bake times will typically reduce the amount of time needed for the outgassing of the solvents remaining in the paint. When employing these accelerated methods, do not exceed the TDS recommended maximum curing temperature for the topcoat or clearcoat system being used.

Detailed information on the use of AkzoNobel basecoats, clearcoats and other products can be found on the web at – <https://my.anaac.net/>