



Tint Man Tips

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Tip: Squeegee Techniques for Security Films
Reference: TMT 009 Revision 001

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The most difficult installation you will ever undertake is thick security film. Installing these products is definitely a good workout and will put your strength to the test.

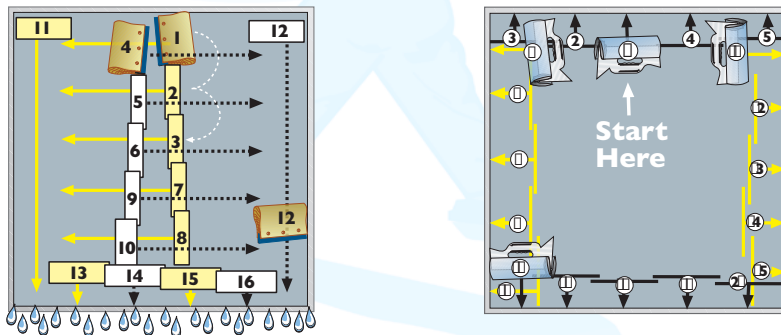
Many dealers don't realize just how difficult it is to install security films. If standard installation techniques are used, it's almost a guarantee that water will remain behind. That will cause the curing time to take much longer and in some cases, it will never dry out. Many times dealers will tend to blame the quality of the film, when in fact, the primary reason is failure to properly squeegee.

Let's first start with the tool used to perform this installation. It is almost as important as the installation technique. I prefer the 8" Wooden Handle Squeegee (TT-254). The large hard wooden back, allows me to place both hands on it, giving me a stable surface to really put the needed amount of pressure.

I know most of us tinter's have our own techniques when installing and some of us even hate being told how to install. I am here to tell you after having a bad experience or two myself, it is really important to use the proper squeegeeing technique when installing Security film. The technique you will want to use is following a pattern of overlapping strokes with firm pressure starting from top to bottom every time. If you see a water pocket anywhere in the window, you absolutely must start the squeegeeing process all over again from top to bottom, moving the pocket on the way down.

Following this pattern will also prevent contaminants from flushing out and back underneath into the adhesive. Another important thing to remember for the last step of this install is having lint free paper towels on hand. They will help in the "bumping" process picking up moisture and contaminants. Nothing will ruin your day more than stepping back from an otherwise perfect install and seeing contamination.

Here is a diagram of the pattern to follow on how to properly squeegee security film:



If you are new to installing Security film, I highly recommend you do a few dry runs, "no pun intended". Continue to experiment until you are comfortable with the amount of pressure and leverage required to fully remove the water. It will also give you the chance to study the curing process, so you know what to expect and can fully explain the process to your customer. Like anything else practice will get you perfect installations before you attempt this on someone's home or business. Good luck!



Best Regards,

THE TINT MAN

