



Tip: Why Window Film can not be applied to plastics

Reference: TMT 003 Revision 002

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Plexiglass, polycarbonate and lexan are only a few names of the plastics that are sometimes used to replace traditional glass. These plastics can be found in skylights, sidelights on front doors, storm door panes, and garage door windows. The advantage of these “plastic” materials is that they are more impact-resistant than glass.

Once the plastic is exposed to any heat, it slowly begins to release the chemicals and absorbed moisture that was a part of the original manufacturing. This is referred to as out-gassing; the amounts of the release are small and for the most part go un-noticed. However, if window film is applied it will trap the gasses and thereby, cause bubbles of gas between the plastic and the adhesive. This in very short order becomes unsightly and the customer will demand a redo.

The removal of the window film adhesive, which is now firmly adhered to the plastic, is the real problem. Normal removal would involve the need to scrape the substrate in order to remove the old adhesive. Plastic is quite soft, especially when compared to glass, we know it takes a diamond to scratch glass. You can not use a blade of any kind, to remove the left behind adhesive; even the most careful application of any scraper or blade will cause small scratches to the plastic. Should you try to use a chemical, you run the risk of crazing, cracking or permeation loss on the substrate.

Update: December 4, 2017

A recently released product by Johnson Window Films is in fact safe for installation on plastic surfaces. Our Solar Silver 20% is available with a specially designed adhesive for use on plastics, it allows the out gassing chemicals and moisture to dissipate, therefore no blisters are found after installation.

Call your sales representative today to discuss purchasing the newest addition to our Commerical/Residential line, Solar Silver 20% Anti – Blister (SS20AB)

Best Regards,

THE TINT MAN

