

## Important application tips

### Cast carwrap film

**Professional car wrapping is not as easy as many people think. Application to large areas is quite easy. The adhesive layers nowadays are so light that there's not a lot that can go wrong. But it still does. We are asked regularly why the edges of film curl or why the film in swages and channels comes loose. Knowledge is king!**



#### Consider this

Even if you have 25 years of experience, carwrapping film is not the same as standard film. A lot more is expected from carwrap film. The owner of a newly wrapped car will examine every centimetre of it from a distance of about 25cm. You need to adapt your techniques to both the film and the application. Your finish needs to be much better, but the type of film also needs to be considered.

Carwrap film has different heat-shrinking and adhesive performance and needs to be treated differently. We would advise you to follow one of our carwrap training courses. We can teach you everything you need to know. However, to help you on your way, here are a few tips.



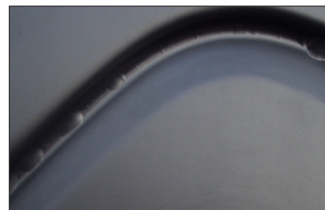
#### HIGH RISK AREAS

Every car has areas where the film can easily come loose. Including accessories that have been attached with double-sided tape such as sill extensions, spoilers and bumper strips. Dirt gets into the seams and gaps and this needs to be first cleaned thoroughly. Never run film over the seams, always start and end at a seam. This will eliminate excessive tension and will prevent the film from coming loose or curling at the edges.



#### CLEANING AND PRIMING

Channels and folds often present problems a few weeks after application. This is the logical consequence the channel or fold not being degreased and primed and the film not being heat-set correctly. Ensure optimal adhesion by degreasing the car with **SOTT SurfaceCleaner-II 600-SC02**. Silicone and wax can be removed using **SOTT Degreaser T-800**. Any waterborne car paints should first be primed with **AdhesiveActivator AA-1400**.



#### AVOID EXCESSIVE TENSION

If the edges of the film curl, this can have two causes:

- the adhesive layer is not been sufficiently activated. Extra pressure should be applied to the edges using some heat.
- the edge of the film has been pulled excessively to remove stubborn creases. Eliminate tension at the edge of the film by allowing more excess film for the application and by only pulling on the excess film that is later to be removed.



#### HEAT-SETTING AND SNAGGING

The film should always be heat-set in areas where it has been stretched and where it is under tension. If not, it will come loose - guaranteed! This can be done with a **ShrinkMaster heat gun 400-SM-2000\*** or a **blow torch 400-BB-2235**. Extra pressure should also be applied to the edges (snagging) using heat (50°C). The adhesive layer is 'hard', in other words, the adhesive will not bond immediately to the surface. The extra pressure together with the heat activates the adhesive layer and the bonding process can begin.



\* If you need to know more we can always help. Just give one of our advisors a call in the sales department. Better still: Take part in one of our training sessions and learn all the tricks of the trade.

GOOD TO KNOW

#### Good To Know

**When heat-setting, the film should be heated to return the foil to its casting temperature.**

More information can be found on the information page: 'heat-setting of the vinyl'.

#### Blow torch 400-BB-2235

A blow torch is much more efficient reaching the perfect temperature in less



#### Shrinkmaster 400-SM2000

With a heat gun the film should be heated to 90-110°C.

