

# Body Armor Kit Installation Instructions

## Paint Protection Kits

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NOTE: Written instructions are no substitute for hands-on training.

Necessary Application Tools:

Squeegee (Teflon-coated)

(2) 1-quart spray bottles

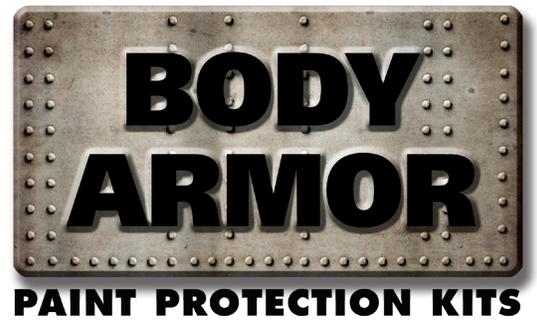
Baby shampoo

70% Isopropyl Rubbing alcohol

Non-Scratch 3M Detailing Cloth

Wax and Silicone Remover

Ordinary Tap Water



## General Instructions

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1. Installation should always be performed in a controlled environment with a temperature range of 50° to 90° F. Application should never be performed in windy conditions.
2. Prepare a slip solution in one of the spray bottles, filling it with water and adding 2 or 3 large drops (about 3ml) of baby shampoo. Prepare the alcohol/water solution using 1 part alcohol and 2 parts water.
3. Remove any wax on the surface with the 3M Adhesive Remover and a soft cloth.
4. Contamination such as road tar, grease, oil, silicon and dirt should be removed by spraying the surface to be covered with the slip solution and wiping with a soft cloth.
5. Verify size and placement of all parts before removing liner.
6. Clean hands thoroughly, even the smallest amount of dirt on your hands will transfer to the adhesive, causing an undesirable appearance. Also, always keep your fingers wet to prevent adhesive from sticking to fingers, and do not needlessly handle the adhesive side of the material. It will be necessary to handle the adhesive side of the material occasionally, but make any contact with the adhesive as brief as possible. This is important as fingerprints will show through the material.

## Grilles

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1. You will normally find that the pieces are slightly shorter than the painted surface that you are applying them to. This is intentional and is designed to help keep from stretching the narrow pieces too much as well as making it easier to squeegee these pieces. When removing narrow pieces of material from the liner, the plastic tends to stretch to some degree. Since the plastic will stretch differently depending on how it is removed from the liner and it is much easier to stretch the material than to cut off any excess, the pieces are designed intentionally short. On these types of grille kits, start from one end by lining up the kit with the edge of the grille.
2. Stretch the remainder across to the other side and carefully squeegee the area. Use very light pressure on these narrow sections until they are sufficiently tacked down, gradually increasing pressure as they begin to adhere.

## Mirrors

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1. Start on one end by tacking the material down with your squeegee.
2. Stretch the material across to the other side pulling firmly enough to pull out most of the excess material from the top and bottom of the mirror.
3. Once stretched into place, squeegee the remainder of the material down from the center out.
4. Go over the edges with a squeegee wrapped in a paper towel to ensure that the material does not lift.

## Hood

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1. Wet the hood thoroughly with the slip solution. Then, with the material rolled up, keep fingers wet while pulling a small amount of the shield away from the liner on one end. With the rest of the kit rolled up in one hand, use your other hand to hold the end of the material that you have pulled loose from the liner down on the appropriate end of the hood. Then, slowly begin to pull the liner towards the opposite end of the hood, forcing the material to be rolled out on to the hood. If your kit has a relief cut in it, be careful when rolling out the material on the hood so as not to stretch or tear the material in this area. You may have to use your fingers to free the material around the relief cut from the liner. Once you have gotten past the relief cut you may proceed normally. A relief cut would be considered any narrow cut-out in the material which deviates from the normal hoodline for the purpose of allowing the material to lay flat over heavily contoured surfaces.
2. Now that you have the material laid out on the surface, it will be necessary to apply more of the slip solution between the hood and the material to allow the kit to be easily positioned on the hood. Lift the material from the hood one side at a time to spray the material and the hood with the slip solution. It may require a bit of gentle tugging to lift the material from the hood, but care must be taken not to excessively stretch the material. Also, spray the top of the kit with the slip solution prior to positioning the kit, so that the squeegee will not drag the kit out of position.
3. Now that the material moves freely on the hood, you may easily position the kit into place. The kit should be centered with about a 1/8" gap between the front edge of the hood and the kit.
4. Once you have the kit in place, make several small vertical strokes with the squeegee in the very center of the hood until you have an area 3-4" wide from top to bottom that is free of the solution. The shield is now "anchored" to the paint in the center and will not move freely, which means that you do not have to worry about the kit sliding out of place.
5. Now that the material is anchored in the center, lift one end of the material back to the point at which the material has adhered, and spray the adhesive side of the material and the hood with the alcohol/water solution. Spray enough of this solution to wash out any slip solution that was under the material. This is done to promote quick adhesion and to help prevent the material from lifting up around the edges after you have squeegeed an area.
6. Lay the material back down on the hood taking care to ensure that the product is lying straight and flat. Check to see that there is still about an eighth of an inch gap between the front edge of the hood and the kit. Also, make sure that you keep the top surface of the kit wet so that your squeegee will slide easily over the material. Please note that when using the alcohol/water solution, the material will dry very quickly, so it will be necessary to work quickly to achieve the desired appearance.
7. From the center of the area that is now free of slip solution, make a horizontal pass with your squeegee to the edge of the hood. Then, starting back in the center, make short, upward, overlapping strokes from the middle to the top edge moving toward the end of the hood. Now, do the same with downward strokes from the middle to the bottom edge until you reach the end of the hood. Keep in mind that firm pressure is needed in order to avoid leaving water or air bubbles trapped underneath the material.
8. If any area around the edges has lifted back up, you should wrap a paper towel around your squeegee and go over the edges again. This will absorb the moisture around the edges that interferes with adhesion.
9. Repeat steps 5 through 8 for the opposite side of the hood.

## Bumpers & Airdams

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1. For these kits, stretching the material is imperative due to the strong curvature of the painted surface to be covered. Begin by wetting the surface with the soap/water solution and rolling out the material onto the surface.
2. Once on the surface and thoroughly soaked on both sides with the soap/water solution, center the kit on the vehicle while positioning the middle of the upper edge 1/8-inch from the edge of the bumper surface. Do not be concerned if the arc of the protection kit does not match the arc of the bumper edge. This is normal and will be dealt with in the next few steps.
3. Once the kit is in position, make a few vertical passes with your squeegee in the middle of the kit to tack the plastic in place.
4. Now that the plastic is bonded to the paint in the middle, lift the left side and wash out the soap/water solution with the alcohol/water solution. Leave some of the soap/water solution between the plastic and the bumper around the furthest left 12 inches of the kit.
5. Lay the plastic back down and place your left hand palm down onto the last 12 inches of the kit. Stretch the material outward and slightly upward so as to force the kit to follow the arc of the bumper.
6. While holding the plastic in this position, squeegee from the middle out along the center of the kit. Continue squeegeeing the upper section until it is securely adhered to the bumper. Leave the lower section for now.
7. Lift the left 12 inches of the kit back up and wash out any remaining soap/water solution from this side.
8. Place the material back down onto the bumper aligning the plastic with the edges of the bumper where necessary and squeegee the area into place. Leave any small "fingers" that have not laid down completely for now.
9. Starting back in the middle, work the lower section of the kit from the middle to the left side squeegeeing in 1-2 inch strokes then make another pass from the middle to the left making 1-2 inch strokes and so on until you have reached the bottom.
10. Repeat steps 4 through 9 for the right side.
11. Finish the kit by wrapping your squeegee in a soft paper towel and tacking down any remaining "fingers."

## Fenders

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1. For the smaller fender pieces, you can use the alcohol/water solution alone to apply the part. It is usually best to start by lining up the upper edge of the piece with the edge of the fender, while also ensuring that the front edge is about an 1/8-inch away from the edge as well.
2. Make a very gentle narrow pass with the squeegee along the upper edge of the piece. Don't press too hard on the squeegee when making the first pass or you will drag the material out of place with the squeegee. As the material begins to adhere to the paint, you may use increasingly firmer strokes until all the alcohol/water solution is removed from beneath the upper edge of the material.
3. Once the material is anchored at the top, you should gently pull the bottom edge down with your fingers while making sure that the adhesive is thoroughly wet with the alcohol/water solution. Then, while pulling downward on the material, make a firm pass with the squeegee from the top edge all the way through the bottom.
4. Finish up by going over any remaining "fingers" in the material with the squeegee. For vehicles that have heavily contoured fenders (such as the Chevrolet/GMC pick-up), you may need to wrap the squeegee with a paper towel to push out any stubborn areas.

## Frequently Asked Questions

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Answers to some of the most common installation questions...

*"I don't think the kit is cut right. It seems to be too short."*

Depending on the kit you are applying, some kits are purposely designed short so that you have to stretch them into place. The purpose of this type of design is to compensate for a contour on the vehicles surface or to allow room to pull out excess material around the edges that would otherwise be very difficult to lay down. The analogy that is most commonly used in talking about applying this material to a contoured surface is: "Imagine gift wrapping a basketball and all of the wrinkles that you would have in the wrapping paper. Not much you can do about it, right? Now imagine wrapping the same basketball in Saran Wrap instead. Stretching the Saran Wrap allows it to take the shape of what you are stretching it over."

*"I can't get the material to stick to the paint in some areas. It seems like there is no adhesive left on the material."*

A few things can cause this:

1. Not removing the wax from the vehicle's paint before starting installation.
2. Not washing out all of the soap/water solution with the alcohol/water solution before squeegeeing down the material.
3. Using too much soap or alcohol in your solutions.

*"How long should I wait to apply your product if my car has been repainted?"*

You will need to talk to your body shop and see what they recommend. The time will vary depending on the type of paint the body shop used, and whether or not the paint was baked. In any case, the time that they say you should wait to wax the paint, is the same time you will need to wait to install our product.

