
Product Bulletin

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Gerber InstaChangeTM Removable Film

DESCRIPTION

Gerber InstaChange is a durable, removable, scratch-resistant vinyl custom formulated by 3MTM for use with Gerber Digital Color Printing Systems and GerberColorTM foils. For up to two years after application, the film's unique adhesive allows the graphic to be removed from most surfaces without leaving an adhesive residue and without the aid of chemicals, accessories, or heat.

INTENDED APPLICATIONS

Gerber InstaChange is ideally suited for interior and exterior emblems, logos, signs, point of purchase, and vehicular applications. This film has superior hiding power because of its gray pigmented adhesive. It is designed for application to flat surfaces with and without rivets. The user should determine the suitability of all substrates prior to actual application.

This film is not recommended for use on corrugated or highly irregular surfaces. It is not recommended for flexible signface or flexible banner either. It is also not intended for applications where petrochemical contact may occur (It can be used in non-spill areas such as doors on cars and trucks). If petrochemical exposure is anticipated, refer to the section below on protecting graphics.

Application of Gerber InstaChange to stainless steel substrates or over 3M ScotchliteTM Reflective Sheeting is not recommended.

APPLICATION TECHNIQUES

Dry application methods should be used with Gerber InstaChange and panels can be overlapped or butted.

Gerber standard tack application tape is required for all graphics produced with Gerber Digital Color Printing Systems.

A "snap tape test" should be used to determine the removal effects of InstaChange on painted surfaces. Using a razor or other sharp instrument, cut a crosshatch pattern through the paint (Cut should be made in an inconspicuous area). The crosshatch pattern should be one inch wide with a spacing of approximately 1/5" (5.08mm) between cut lines. Using a squeegee, firmly apply a strip of aggressive pressure sensitive tape over the crosshatch pattern. (Use ScotchTM Tape #610 or equivalent.) Remove tape at 180° angle using a firm, rapid pull.

This test should be performed whenever there is doubt concerning the integrity of paint to substrate adhesion (i.e. paint to wall board). Any sign of lifting, peeling or bubbling of the paint indicates poor paint adhesion. This could result in damage to the substrate when graphic removal is attempted.

SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

Before applying your graphic, wash the surface of your substrate with warm water and detergent. Do not use soaps or other cleaners with lotions or creams as they will leave a residue. Thoroughly rinse the surface and allow it to completely

dry.

Saturate a clean paper towel with a solvent-based cleaner and wipe the substrate surface. Be certain to follow all manufacturer safety guidelines when using any solvent. Dry the surface with a lint-free paper towel before the solvent evaporates.

If applying to glass, solvent wipe the surface with a 2 to 1 mixture of water and isopropyl alcohol. Glass temperatures can vary across the surface. These temperature variations can produce stresses which may cause the glass to break. Use caution when applying to glass.

Some polycarbonate substrates may weaken when certain vinyl films are applied to them. Because of this possibility, the user will need to determine if safety items such as helmets, safety shields, and some windshields are compatible with their vinyl's adhesive.

Many paint systems (e.g. two-part urethane) and some polycarbonate substrates will outgas if they are not fully cured. Outgassing can cause permanent bubbling in most films; substrates should be tested for outgassing prior to final application.

PERFORMANCE LIFE (UNPRINTED)

Gerber InstaChange has a performance life of two years when applied vertically.

Performance statements are based upon field experience and exposure tests conducted throughout the United States. Substrate selection, exposure angle, environmental conditions, and maintenance of markings will affect actual performance. Continuous exposure in regions that experience maximum sunny days will result in decreased performance. This product is not recommended for horizontal applications.

PRINTING

If your software material selection palette does not have Gerber InstaChange, use Scotchcal™ 220 normal print settings.

GerberColor Spot (GCS) Series, GerberColor Process (GCP) Series, GerberColor Process SUPER CMYK™, GerberColor Medal (GCM) Series and GerberColor Transparent (GCT) Series Foils can be used to print onto InstaChange.

CUTTING

Gerber InstaChange can be cut on any 15" GRAPHIX ADVANTAGE® compatible plotter. A 30° SuperSharp blade is recommended. Plotters can be set to full speed. The user should perform a test cut to determine the ideal tool force setting.

PROTECTING GRAPHICS

Gerber Scientific Products, Inc. offers two products that are designed to protect vinyl and printed graphics.

Gerber Guard™ is a durable, dimensionally stable, glossy vinyl overlamine. This film has a petrochemical-resistant construction and is intended to be used when markings may be exposed to petrochemical spillage and/or severe handling conditions.

Abrasion Guard™ is a clear, top-coat GerberColor Foil designed to protect graphics from moderate contact or handling.

SHELF LIFE AND STORAGE

Apply film within one year of receipt. Printed graphics should also be applied within one year. Film and printed graphics (with or without premask) should be kept in a clean area free from excessive moisture and direct sunlight. Maintain temperature at less than 100°F (38°C). Use a paper interleaf between layers of stacked or rolled printed materials. Do not

stack printed graphics face to face.

MAINTENANCE

To clean printed graphics, use a mild, non-abrasive soap with a soft cloth or sponge. Avoid using alcohol-based cleansers or soaps containing grit or abrasives. Automated vehicle washing systems that use rotary cleaning brushes should also be avoided.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Thickness	5 mil with adhesive
Film Color	White
Adhesive	Removable
Adhesive Color	Pigmented Gray
Liner	# 78 White Kraft
Tensile Strength	13.5 lb/in/min (2.43 kg/cm/min)
Elongation	200%
Dimensional Stability	.015 (.38mm)
Application Temp	28°F to 110°F (-2°C to 43°C)
Removable Temp	28°F to 110°F (-2°C to 43°C)
Operating Temperature	-40°F to 150°F (-40°C to +66°C)

CHEMICAL RESISTANCE (UNPRINTED)

Chemical Agent	Exposure Time	Result
Water	24 hours	No effect
50/50 Ethylene glycol/water	24 hours	Yellowing
Reference Fuel	1 hour	Adhesive softening
SAE 20 motor oil	24 hours	No effect
# 1 diesel fuel	1 hour	Edge lifting
10% Hydrochloric acid	10 minutes	No effect
10% Ammonium Hydroxide	10 minutes	No effect
Mineral spirits	10 minutes	No effect
VM & P Naphtha	10 minutes	No effect

RELATED LITERATURE

GerberColor Spot (GCS) Series, GerberColor Process (GCP) SUPER CMYK Series, GerberColor Medal (GCM) Series, GerberColor Transparent (GCT) Series, and Gerber Guard, and Abrasion Guard (GerberColor Finishing GCF) Product Bulletins.

For help with questions concerning Gerber products, please call your distributor or Gerber Customer Service at 1-800-222-7446 or (860)643-1515.

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