

Window film drying time



Time out to dry out

Water is sprayed onto the glass before the film is applied. This liquid layer allows the film to be precisely positioned and helps remove air pockets. A squeegee then pushes the film against the glass, squeezing out excess water. There's always a thin layer of water left behind.

You may not see any bubbles to begin with, as the water is spread evenly across the glass. In the days after, however, it's common to see bubbles. This is because the water molecules are affected by their natural surface tension, which makes them want to group together to form a bubble. This may have a fish eye effect and the bubbles can be any size and quantity, depending on the glass, film and environmental conditions.

Don't panic - the water between the window and the film will evaporate over time. The rate at which it escapes is called the vapour transmission rate of the film.

Factors affecting dry out time:

- ❑ Cold and/or overcast weather can slow the drying process
- ❑ Thicker or high metal content films have a slower evaporation rate
- ❑ Low direct sun exposure on the windows
- ❑ Interior temperature, humidity and air circulation

If one or more of these factors are at play, the drying time may be extended. One thing is certain though - window films always dry out.

Three phases of the drying process

- ❶ The entire window may appear hazy at first
- ❷ The water will pool into larger bubbles scattered over the window, this is molecular water tension at work
- ❸ The bubbles themselves will become cloudy during the last stage of drying

During stages two and three the water bubbles will shrink in size. This is near impossible to monitor as the change in bubble-size is minute from day to day.

WAYS TO QUICKEN THE DRYING TIME

- ❑ *Temperature.*
Increase the temperature of the room/s in question
- ❑ *Heat.*
An electric fan heater directed at the film is a great dry out method. Just sit it a few meters away and let the hot air blow over the whole window
- ❑ *Wind.*
A normal fan will encourage air movement across the film, known as convective drying
- ❑ *Humidity.*
A dehumidifier will make the air significantly dryer, increasing the air's ability to accept moisture from the film



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