

CAR WINDOW TINTING INSTALLATION GUIDE

**EXPERT
APPROVED!**

- THOUROUGH STEP BY STEP GUIDE
- CO-CREATED WITH ONE OF OUR EXPERTS
- INSIDER TIPS
- DETAILED COLOUR PHOTO REFERENCES



CAR WINDOW TINTING INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

INTRODUCTION

PREPERATION

All preparation work is done on the outside of the glass and the film is fitted internally.

IMPORTANT

All information provided as in depth as possible. Car window tinting is a skilled art involving lots of prior training. Some cars are relatively easy to tint, whilst others are extremely difficult. This manual will show you a step by step guide to tinting your car, as not all cars are the same and will require you to amend the instructions to suit the car. These instructions are designed as a guide only and they will in no way give you the skills to tint vehicles like a professional. The only thing that will help you to become skilled at car window tinting is this guide combined with a lot of practice and some tinkering for different cars. As they say practice makes perfect!

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Car window tint is designed to be thinner than flat glass films to allow easier shrinking. Please do not mistake a thinner film for lower quality, as this is not true. All our tints come with 1 year, 5 year or Lifetime warranty depending on the film.

YOU WILL REQUIRE

- A sharp knife with a snap off blade
- Hard card squeegee
- Scrubbie pad
- Spray bottle filled with water and a mix of approx 1tsp of Johnsons baby shampoo per pint of water (known as slip solution)
- Bone Gasket Jammer (optional)
- Gasket Shield (optional)
- Lint Free Cloth
- Talcum Powder (rear screen & curved windows only)
- Bright Lights
- Hot Air Gun (rear screen & curved windows only)

Most of these tools are available on our online store individually and in ready to go kits. Alternatively, you can call our hotline on 0845 363 2021. All orders made over the telephone must be confirmed via e-mail.

OTHER NOTES

If you are printing in colour, all photo's will be printed very clearly and as is.

If you are printing in black and white, we have purposely changed the colour of the tint from black to a lighter grey. This is to make the black tint stand out more in the photo so you can clearly see it.

WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND A COLOUR PRINT.

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THE REAR WINDSCREEN - PAGE 1



1. Measure the window and make note of its maximum width and length.

2. Cut down the film, 1-2 inches longer and wider than the required sizes you noted from the above step. The film needs to be fitted with the factory straight edges at the top and bottom of the glass, so that the grain is the correct way for heat shrinking.

3. Clean the window and make sure it is completely dry and free of dust, dirt and other particles. The film has to be completely dry, so any water left on the window may cause the film to crease when heat shrinking.

4. Place a small amount of talcum powder on the window, then using a dry cloth rub the talcum powder over the window leaving a thin layer all over the glass.

5. Wet a cloth and ring out so it is wet but not dripping.

6. Put a line of water horizontally across the centre of the window.

PRO TIP: If you're having problems heat shrinking the screen, try moving the centre water line slightly up or down, closer to the area where you're having problems.

7. Check which side the backing liner is on. This can be done by grinding a corner of the film with your teeth, or using a piece of sticky tape at either side.

8. Put the film on the window, with the backing liner facing you.

9. Run the squeegee over the line of water, so the film is flat to this line.

10. Cut around any obstacles and put the film in place.



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11. Cut around the film until it fits nicely onto the glass. The film should still be slightly oversized to allow for shrinkage. You will make a closer cut once the film has been heat shrunk. The film should look similar to diagram 11.

HEAT SHRINKING

12. The film will not naturally be able to fit the contour of the glass because it is curved horizontally and vertically. Arrange the film so that there are fingers running from the middle to the bottom and from the middle to the top. Please see diagram 12.

PRO TIP: You cannot heat shrink fingers out horizontally. They **MUST** be made to run vertically.

13. You're going to need your heat gun. A hairdryer is not an alternative.

You are going to start with the bottom section. Heat the film with your hot air gun on a high setting and holding it approx 25cm away from the glass.

Starting at the centre of the window, run the heat gun from the line of water to the bottom of the glass, taking around 1 second from the line to the bottom. Then go back up, in a flowing movement. Continue this motion from the left side of the window to the right and then back again. As you go over it more, you can start to move the heat gun closer to the film.

The film should now be starting to crinkle and follow the contour of the glass. Continue doing this until the film seems to fit the glass. Don't worry about the appearance of the film at this point. It will look crinkled, but you will sort that out soon.



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HEAT SHRINKING



14. Lift the bottom of the film where you have heat shrunk and spray generously with water and smooth the film down with your hand.

PRO TIP: Wearing gloves for this process makes it easier!



15. Once you've smoothed out the film, carefully remove the water using a hard card squeegee. Use quite a bit of pressure, but be VERY careful not to crease the film. Work slowly!

16. When the film is flat to the glass, you may be left with some fingers. Always make sure that the fingers are at the bottom of the film. If they are not, you will need to manipulate the film to make them move to the bottom. These fingers can be heated quickly with your heat gun and pushed out with a hard card squeegee. Heat the finger starting at the peak and work down to the bottom. Do this quickly and push it out with your hard card squeegee. If it comes back, repeat the process until all fingers have completely gone.

REMEMBER: You can only heat shrink fingers vertically. DO NOT heat shrink them using a side to side motion.

PRO TIP: Try not to heat the edges of the film too much as this can cause the film to burn.



17. The film should now look like diagram 17. The bottom of the film should be smooth and the top should not have been touched.

18. Now repeat steps 13-16 for the top side of the window.



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TRIMMING



19. When all of the film has been heat shrunk and is flat to the glass, we will need to trim the film. If you have a dark film, such as 20% or 5%, you may need to put a light in the boot so that you can see through the film, to see the dot matrix or the edges of the glass.

20. Cut the film down to 1-2mm over the size of the dot matrix.

21. The film should now be clean and flat to the glass.

22. Remove the film and clean the outside of the glass. If you have a free window (either on your car or somewhere else), spray the window and place the tint on. The water will hold the tint onto the glass.



23. Open up your boot and spray the inside of the window and clean down with a scrubbie pad. If you are not using our pads, be careful that the ones you are using won't damage your heating elements.

PRO TIP: Be sure to remove any stickers and residue. Pay particular attention to the dot matrix, as silicone can sometimes sit inside the dots, which will stop the film from sitting on the dot matrix as it should.

24. Squeegee all of the water from the inside of the window and dry the edges with a lint free cloth. Make sure it's **COMPLETELY** clean.

25. Place the film back onto the outside of the window, with the backing liner facing you. Then, spray the film and clean down with a soft, lint free cloth.



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THE REAR WINDSCREEN - PAGE 5

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26. Spray the inside of the window with a fine mist of the slip solution.

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27. Go back to the film on the outside of the window and make sure the backing liner is facing you and remove it. If you're having trouble, use tape at both corners. Then, spray the adhesive with the slip solution.

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28. Put the film with the adhesive side onto the glass. When in place, spray the slip solution over the film and run the squeegee horizontally across the centre of the film to keep it in place.

29. Now squeegee vertically across the centre of the film.

30. You'll now be left with 4 corners of the film that haven't been squeegeed. Continue to squeegee all the water from behind these 4 corners.

NOTE: Be very careful here, as this is a common place to crease the film.

31. Hopefully, if everything has been done correctly, your film should now be flat to the glass, so just wipe around the edges of the film with a lint free cloth to prevent water dripping behind the film.

32. If any small fingers appear, these can be left for an hour to dry a little and then re-squeegee. If the fingers are over approximately 2.5cm (1"), then they'll have to be heat shrunk as they are too big.

PRO TIP: Too much heat being applied to the fingers will cause the film to dry out and crease. Use small bursts and run a hard card squeegee over them.

FINISHED: THE REAR SCREEN



NEXT UP: THE SIDE WINDOWS

CAR WINDOW TINTING INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

THE SIDE ROLL DOWN WINDOWS - PAGE 1



33. Measure the window and take note of the measurements. Then, cut down the the film slightly oversized.

34. Clean the outside of the window with water to ensure it is completely clean with no dust and debris.

35. Spray the slip solution onto the outside of the window and place the film onto the window with the backing liner facing you. The film should over hang on each side except for the bottom, which should be set so that the film will overhang the inside gasket by 1cm, so it can be tucked in.

36. Squeegee the centre of the film so that it doesn't move too easily.

NOTE: Some windows are convex, meaning it curves either vertically or horizontally. If your side windows are like this, you will need to heat shrink them. Please see the Rear Screen Heat Shrinking part of this guide for more information.



37. Now wind down the window slightly, ensuring that the film doesn't move or crease. Be careful here, as one slight move will crease the film and ruin the whole sheet. Hold the film against the glass whilst winding down!

38. Now, using a sharp knife, cut along the top of the window, removing any excess film. Then, wind the window back up, again being careful not to crease it.



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39. Cut along the left edge of the gasket.

40. Now, move the whole film 5mm to the left, so it's overlapping the left gasket that you just cut.

41. Now cut the film very tight to the right gasket.

42. Wet a flat cutting surface and place the film on. Then, squeegee the film to ensure the film is completely flat.

43. Using a straight edge, tidy up all the cuts you have made.

44. Round off any corners that aren't visible, to reduce the chance of it catching under the gaskets. This can be done using a blade and simple cutting off the straight corner to make it rounded.

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THE SIDE ROLL DOWN WINDOWS - PAGE 3

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45. Spray the solution on the inside of the glass and clean thoroughly using a scrubbie pad and hard card squeegee (we prefer blue max squeegees). Be sure to remove any stickers and residue that may be on the glass. Using a glass scraper may be handy here!

46. Dry the edges with a lint free cloth to stop any any dirty water dripping into the gasket and contaminating the film.

47. Spray a mist of the slip solution over the inside of the glass and place the gasket shield down the inner bottom gasket of the window.

48. Wind the window down slightly, so you can get the film onto the top of the window. Don't worry about the bottom for now.

49. Remove the backing liner from the film and spray the slip solution over the sticky side as you remove. Then, place the film on the glass, with the adhesive side on the glass.

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47a



47b



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THE SIDE ROLL DOWN WINDOWS - PAGE 4

50 + 54



50. Now that the film is on the window, place the top edge 1-2 mm below the top of the window. This will stop it catching when the window is wound up. Tuck the left and right edges behind the gasket.

51. Using the hard card squeegee, get all the water from behind the film, starting at the top, working down to the bottom.

52. Go around the edges with a conqueror squeegee, or just your hard card squeegee if not.

53. Wind the window up slowly, ensuring the film doesn't come away from the window.

52 + 55



PRO TIP: It can help to push on the glass very softly when winding up. However, if it's an electric window, pushing too hard will trigger a safety mechanism, causing the window to automatically open, damaging the film.

54. Push the bottom down into the gasket and squeegee the rest of the window.

55. Once again, go around the edges of the window with a conqueror or hard card squeegee to make sure the water has been removed. A perfectly squeegeed window is what we need!

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56. Dry around the window with a lint free cloth so that no water drips behind the film.

56



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57. If there are any fingers in the film, you will need to go over these with a hard card squeegee. If they don't go down straight away, let them dry a little. A small finger is anything less than 2.5 or 1". If they are bigger than this you will need to make sure you get them out before the film dries.

PRO TIP: Using a heat gun can be a great way to remove fingers, but only use very small bursts of heat as the film will crease if it dries too quickly. We don't want you to fail after coming this far!



58. Now that you're almost done, we have one more tip up our sleeve for you. You should not open your window for at least 7 days to allow the film to fully dry and bond to the glass. In winter months, this should be at least 14 days, maybe more. To help you remember this, place some masking tape on the button, handle etc... so you cannot do it!

FINISHED: THE SIDE WINDOWS



NEXT UP: THE QUARTER LIGHTS

THE QUARTER PANELS - PAGE 1

For the quarter light panels (the small side windows that do not open), please follow the same steps and use the same techniques as shown in the side windows guide.

If your quarter panels do not have a dot matrix, we recommend using the backing liner from a piece of film and spraying the outside of the panel with water. Then, squeegee the backing liner to the window and create a template by cutting around the backing liner. Then, spray a cutting surface with water and place a piece of film big enough for your quarter panel onto it. Place the backing liner template over the top and this allows you to create a perfectly fitting piece of film for those small windows.