

# Facts About Automotive Window Film

## Costs

A common question is how much does it cost to have window film installed?

There isn't a simple answer because of the many factors involved that may affect costs. Among them are: The quality and type of window film, the model of the vehicle and how much glass needs to be covered.

## Find An Installer

The International Window Film Association (IWFA), a nonprofit industry group, offers an easy to use 'Find Window Film' business locator on its website at [www.iwfa.com](http://www.iwfa.com).

A visitor selects the option and the types in their zip code in the locator box and IWFA member companies will be shown on a map based on the added zip code. In addition local contact information for the business may be displayed.

*Professionally installed automotive window films offer many benefits. This guide provides information to help consumers decide whether to have window film added to their vehicle.*

*Aftermarket window film is a method of applying a thin film to the interior surface of a vehicle's windows. While many vehicles today have dyed or dark glass, most leave the occupants exposed to the sun's penetrating UV rays, which pass right through ordinary unprotected glass and the result may lead to skin cancer, cataracts, interior heat build-up and glare.*

*Before choosing window film for a vehicle's glass, consider these tips and learn about the state laws around automotive window films so you can make an informed decision.*



## What Are Window Films?

- Window film is a thin sheet of polyester with high tech coatings which is adhered to the interior of a window. All quality window films block up to 99 percent of the sun's damaging UV rays.
- Window films may be professionally installed and offer a wide range of benefits from skin protection, to reduced glare, less solar heat and they also add a margin of safety by helping to hold glass together when it is impacted or broken.
- Despite the nearly invisible metal high tech metal and ceramic coatings, today's window films may not interfere with GPS, cell phone or radio signals.
- Car window film is available in a variety of materials and shades. A standard performance measurement used for car window tinting is visible light transmission (VLT). A darker shade of film has a lower percentage of VLT.



## What Are The Benefits?

- Reduced fading and cracking of upholstery
- More protection from harmful UV rays that may lead to skin cancer and cataracts
- Up to 55% rejection of heat buildup that allows for more efficient air conditioning
- Improved visibility from harsh sunlight that results in less eye fatigue
- Professional installation in a few hours
- Protection in an accident

Window film may help passengers in two ways: First, window film decreases the chance of glass fragments flying in on impact, and may even help to prevent passengers from being ejected from the vehicle during a collision.

In addition, passengers may also be protected from granules of flying glass that may cause lacerations and eye injuries.

## Installation

As a first step, the installer cleans the inside of the windows with a solution and scrapes off any dirt.

Next a water solution to slip the film onto the glass is used and the film is positioned to the glass and the film's backing liner is removed to expose the adhesive.

The installer uses a squeegee and other tools to smooth the film and remove water and any bubbles. There is also a drying period, where the moisture used to install the film to the glass needs time to cure or dry-out.

The time to achieve full adhesion is often referred to as "the adhesive cure time," but on automotive films it is really the "drying time" of the residual moisture.

The time it takes for the film to fully cure is related to thickness of the film and the various specialized coatings on the film. Typical cure times may also be extended or shortened according to climatic conditions and vehicle storage.

## Legality

In the United States, states regulate window film. Use on automobiles. Most laws stipulate the amount of visible light transmission (VLT) that pass through the windows.

The higher the percentage of VLT; the lighter the film. A 70 percent window film is nearly clear to the naked eye, while a 15 percent window film would appear nearly black from the exterior and make it difficult to see through the glass.

Consumers should be familiar with local laws that govern vehicle window films before making a decision on installation as some jurisdictions will levy fines to the owner and / or operator of the vehicle, and may require the window film to be removed if it does not meet the local law.

In some states, medical documentation may be needed to have a darker than legal window film for certain medical conditions.

