

Application and Maintenance

For 3M™ Graphics for Floors

General Information

This bulletin gives specific instructions for the application and maintenance of 3M Graphics for Floors created with these films:

- 3M™ Scotchcal™ Lustre Overlamine 3645 and 3M™ Controltac™ Graphic Film Series 162

Health and Safety

Read the manufacturers' container labels and the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for health hazard data, precautionary information, suggested first aid, and environmental information when handling any chemical products. For health and safety information for 3M products, contact your regional 3M Technical Service person. When using any equipment, always follow the manufacturers' instructions for safe operation.

Application Procedures

Application Surfaces

Before handling any chemical products, always read the container label and the MSDS.

Recommended floor surfaces

<p>⚠ Warning</p> <p>The safety and performance of these films are warranted or assured only on the surfaces listed below. Any other surface must be approved in writing by 3M Commercial Graphics Technical Service prior to application. FOR INDOOR USE</p>
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3M Graphics for Floors have been approved for application to the following floor surfaces:

- Waxed vinyl
- Sealed concrete
- Marble
- Ceramic Tile
- Sealed Wood
- Terrazzo

Condition of floor surfaces

The floor surface must be secure and in good condition.

- Avoid installing Graphics for Floors over loose tile.
- Avoid installing Graphics for Floors over uneven tile.
- Be sure the floor finish is well bonded to the floor surface. Floor finishes that are not well bonded to the surface may separate or release, resulting in premature lifting of the graphic. In addition, the floor finish may come off with the graphic when the graphic is removed, requiring the reapplication of the floor finish. Some types of floor finishes include concrete sealer, wood sealer, paint, and wax.
- Properly clean the floor surface, including removing any silicone coatings, except in grout line area of tile.
- The floor surface application temperature range is 10° to 38°C.

Location of Graphics for Floors

<p>⚠ CAUTION</p> <p>Any floor surface, including floor graphics, that is wet due to rain, snow, or other contaminants may become slippery. To avoid personal injury due to slipping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Place graphics far enough away from entryways that they stay dry.• Use doormats to reduce moisture at entryways.• Clean up water, spills, or other contaminants immediately.
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Graphics for Floors may be damaged by pallets or heavy equipment such as fork-lifts as well as by dragging heavy items across the top of the graphic. If possible, locate graphics out of the main stream flow of pallet or heavy equipment traffic. Minor edge chipping is unavoidable.

Surface Preparation

All floor surfaces must be cleaned prior to applying Graphics for Floors, including surfaces that are sealed, waxed, or painted.

To clean the floor, use Isopropyl Alcohol, or if the graphic is very large or the floor is very dirty, use the following procedure:

Surface cleaning

1. Spray the floor area where the graphic will be applied. Use a solution of 50 drops of detergent per liter of water. Do not use soaps or enzyme detergents.
2. Clean an area that is 15 to 20 cm larger than the graphic.
3. Wipe the floor clean and then dry it with a lint-free paper towel. Be sure you remove all soil and grit.
4. Remove any oil or grease by wiping the floor with a clean, lint-free paper towel that has been moistened with rubbing alcohol that contains no lotions. To avoid leaving a residue, wipe the surface completely dry with a lint-free paper towel before the alcohol evaporates.

Graphic Application

1. Remove the liner from the back of the graphic. This graphic is positionable and does not require a premasking or prespacing tape.
2. Position the graphic on the clean floor. Avoid aligning the edges of the graphic on grout lines of tile. Do not smooth the graphics with your hands because this entraps air.
3. Use a PA-1 plastic applicator to adhere the graphic to the floor. Make one stroke across the center of the graphic using firm pressure. Lift one end of the graphic. Continue the application by working outward from the center of the lifted graphic and using firm, overlapping strokes. Lift the opposite end of the graphic and repeat the application procedure.

Note: **Restroke the edges and the corners** of the graphic, using very firm pressure; this ensures a good edge seal.

Seaming

Use butt seams when the graphic has more than one panel. Overlapped seams are not recommended or warranted.

Maintenance



To reduce the risk of tripping, remove and replace the entire graphic if there is any lifting from the floor surface.

Wax the graphic soon after application

If you apply the graphic to a floor that is routinely maintained using buffing or scrubbing equipment, wax the graphic as soon as possible after applying it to the floor. This protects the graphic from premature wear due to floor maintenance.

Following the application and waxing, if used, keep the graphic and surrounding floor surface clean and dry for at least four hours; do not scrub or buff the area during that time.

Routine maintenance

Use routine floor maintenance procedures and equipment to maintain the graphic.

1. Select a floor finish or wax that meets or exceeds the 0.5 Static Coefficient of Friction value using the ASTM D 2047 test procedure.
2. Clean the graphic prior to waxing it.
3. Follow the manufacturers' recommendations for applying the floor finish or wax.
4. Do not use buffing equipment over graphics unless they are waxed regularly.

If high-speed, propane-type buffers are used, we recommend that you apply four to six coats of wax to the graphic before buffing it. The multiple coatings of wax reduce the chance of the edge of the graphic wearing prematurely during buffing.

Removal

1. Remove the graphic by lifting one edge and pulling it off at a sharp angle with smooth, even tension. A scraper, such as a putty knife, may be used to lift the edge, if needed.
2. The floor wax under the graphic may also be removed in this process; therefore, the area may have to be rewaxed.

3M Related Literature

Listed below is related 3M Technical Literature that may be of interest. Contact your local 3M sales or technical representative to order these bulletins.

Description	Product Bulletin	Instruction Bulletin
3M™ Controltac™ Plus Graphic Film Series 162	162	-
3M™ Scotchcal™ Lustre Overlamine 3645	3645	-
3M™ Controltac™ Plus Graphic Film Series 8660 ES	8660	-
3M™ Scotchcal™ Lustre Overlamine 8945 ES	8945	-
Lamination for 3M™ Graphics for Floors	-	5.19

Health & Safety

Refer to the package label and the Material Safety Data Sheet for health, safety, and handling information on the products referenced in this bulletin. For 3M products, if necessary, you may contact our Toxicology/Product Responsibility Department on 01344 858000.

Important Notice to Purchaser

The 3M products described in this publication are covered by a 3M warranty and limitation of liability.

3M's warranty provides that if 3M finds that goods are defective in material or workmanship they will be replaced or the price refunded at 3M's option but note that 3M does not accept liability for other direct losses (except for personal injury or death) or consequential losses relating to defective products or from information supplied by 3M.

Purchasers and users of 3M products, and not 3M supplying companies, are always solely responsible for deciding on the suitability of the 3M product for their required or intended use.

Technical Assistance

For help on specific questions relating to 3M Commercial Graphics Division Products, contact your local Technical Service Representative.

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