



Technical Bulletin Service Alert

9703 Technical Bulletin

September 1, 2008

Supersedes September, 1998

Paint “Staining” (Ghosting/Imprinting) on Painted and Gelcoat Surfaces

Background: Plastic sheeting and poly coated masking papers may cause a visual mark, commonly referred to as “ghosting” or “imprinting” under conditions described in this bulletin.

“Ghosting” or “imprinting” appears as a blotchy stain that is more noticeable on darker surfaces. A combination of conditions is usually responsible for this problem, with few exceptions.

3M Overspray Protective Sheeting (P/N 06727, 06728 & 06742) and 3M ScotchBlok™ Masking Paper (P/N 06700 series) are excellent products that provide 3M with competitive performance advantages. Although 3M’s products are unique with respect to some features, these 3M products, and similar competitive masking products, all have low moisture vapor transmission rates (% MVT). MVT is best described as “breathe-ability.” Since these products have low “breathe-ability”, they can trap solvent vapors or moisture. Trapped solvent vapors and/or moisture may cause “imprinting” on the surface. Adding heat or direct sunlight to this situation, may cause the imprinting to be more severe or happen quicker (one hour or less).

Precautions: To minimize the risk of imprinting, the following precautions should be taken:

- (1) If you must mask over freshly cured painted surfaces, remove as soon as possible, and definitely before the bake cycle.
- (2) **Never** mask over wet or damp surfaces and never expose a masked vehicle to moisture.
- (3) Avoid prolonged exposure of masked surface to direct sunlight, even though paint or Gelcoat may be fully cured.

Remedial Action: If imprinting has occurred, you may be able to diminish the imprinting by using heat. “Infra Red” curing lamps, heat guns or paint booth heaters, can help diminish the imprinting. Please note that buffing or compounding will NOT usually solve this problem.

3M™ Technical Bulletin Service Alert

9703

Warranty and Limited Remedy

The 3M product will be free from defects in material and manufacture for a period of one (1) year from the date of manufacture. 3M MAKES NO OTHER WARRANTIES OR CONDITIONS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY ARISING OUT OF A COURSE OF DEALING, CUSTOM, OR USAGE OF TRADE. User is responsible for determining whether the 3M product is fit for a particular purpose and suitable for user's method of application. If the 3M product is defective within the warranty period stated above, your exclusive remedy and 3M's sole obligation shall be, at 3M's option, to replace or repair the 3M product or refund the purchase price of the 3M product.

Limitation of Liability

3M and seller will not be liable for any loss or damage arising from this 3M product, whether direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential, regardless of the legal theory asserted, including warranty, contract, negligence or strict liability



3M Automotive Aftermarket Division
3M Center, Building 223-6N-01
Saint Paul, MN 55144-1000
1-877-666-2277 (1-877-MMM-CARS)