



# Technical Data Sheet

## 3M™ VHB™ Tape - Specialty Tape 4646

### Product Description

3M™ VHB™ Tape 4646 is a 0.025 inch (0.6 mm) thick dark gray double-sided acrylic foam tape with PE film liner. The general purpose acrylic adhesive on both sides bonds to a broad range of high surface energy substrates including metals, glass and easier to bond paints and plastics. The firm foam provides high foam strength and has high temperature resistance. 3M™ VHB™ Tape 4646 is part of the 4611 tape family. Each product in this family has general purpose acrylic adhesive but varies in thickness.

### Product Features

- Fast and easy-to-use permanent bonding method provides high strength and long-term durability
- Virtually invisible fastening keeps surfaces smooth
- Can replace mechanical fasteners (rivets, welds, screws) or liquid adhesives
- Dark gray, 0.025 in (0.6 mm), general purpose adhesive with firm foam has added feature of high temperature resistance
- Eliminate drilling, grinding, refinishing, screwing, welding and associated clean-up
- Creates a permanent seal against water, moisture and more
- Pressure sensitive adhesive bonds on contact to provide immediate handling strength
- Allows the use of thinner, lighter weight and dissimilar materials

### Technical Information Note

The following technical information and data should be considered representative or typical only and should not be used for specification purposes.

### Typical Physical Properties

Attribute Name	Test Method	Value
Color		Dark Gray
Adhesive Type		General Purpose Acrylic
Foam Type		Firm Acrylic
Density	ASTM D3574	840 kg/m <sup>3</sup> <sup>1</sup>
Total Tape Thickness	ASTM D3652	0.6 mm
Thickness Tolerance		±15 %

<sup>1</sup> Foam with adhesive

Attribute Name	Value
Liner	PE Film
Primary Liner Color	Red
Liner Thickness	0.13 mm

### Typical Performance Characteristics

Temperature: 23 °C

Dwell Time: 72 h

Attribute Name	Test Method	Substrate	Backing	Value
90° Peel Adhesion	ASTM D3330	Stainless Steel	5 mil Aluminum Foil	26 N/cm <sup>1</sup>
Normal Tensile	ASTM D897	Aluminum		690 kPa <sup>2</sup>
Overlap Shear Strength	ASTM D1002, ISO 4587	Stainless Steel		550 kPa <sup>3</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> 304 mm/min (12 in/min)
- <sup>2</sup> 6.45 cm<sup>2</sup> (1 in<sup>2</sup>), Jaw Speed 51 mm/min (2 in/min)
- <sup>3</sup> 6.45 cm<sup>2</sup> (1 in<sup>2</sup>), Jaw Speed 12.7 mm/min (0.5 in/min)

### Static Shear

Substrate: Stainless Steel  
 Test Method: ASTM D3654

Temperature	Value
23 °C	1,500 g <sup>1</sup>
66 °C	500 g <sup>1</sup>
93 °C	500 g <sup>1</sup>
121 °C	500 g <sup>1</sup>
177 °C	500 g <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Tested at various temperatures and gram loadings. 3.23 cm<sup>2</sup> (0.5 in<sup>2</sup>). Will hold listed weight for 10,000 minutes (approximately 7 day).

Attribute Name	Value
Short Term Temperature Resistance	232 °C <sup>1</sup>
Long Term Temperature Resistance	149 °C <sup>2</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> No change in room temperature dynamic shear properties following 4 hour conditioning at indicated temperature with 100 g/static load. (Represents minutes, hour in a process type temperature exposure).
- <sup>2</sup> Maximum temperature where tape supports at least 78g/cm<sup>2</sup> (500 g/in<sup>2</sup>) in static shear for 10,000 minutes. (Represents continuous exposure for day or weeks).

### Converting

In addition to standard and custom roll sizes available from 3M through the distribution network, 3M™ VHB™ Tapes are also available in limitless shapes and sizes through the 3M Converter network. For additional information, contact 3M Converter Markets at 1-800-223-7427 or on the web at [www.3M.com/converter](http://www.3M.com/converter).

### Handling/Application Information

#### Surface Preparation

**Clean:** Most substrates should be cleaned with a 70/30 mixture of (IPA\*)/Water prior to applying 3M™ VHB™ Tape.

Exceptions that may require additional surface preparation include:

- Heavy Oils: A degreaser or solvent-based cleaner may be required to remove heavy oil or grease from a surface and should be followed by cleaning with IPA/water.
- Abrasion: Abrading a surface, followed by cleaning with IPA/water, can remove heavy dirt or oxidation and can increase surface area to improve adhesion.
- Adhesion Promoters: Priming a surface can significantly improve initial and ultimate adhesion to many materials such as plastics and paints.
- Porous surfaces: Most porous and fibered materials such as wood, particleboard, concrete, etc. need to be sealed to provide a unified surface.
- Unique Materials: Special surface preparation may be needed for glass and glass-like materials, copper and copper containing metals, and plastics or rubber that contain components that migrate (e.g. plasticizers).

Refer to 3M Technical Bulletin "Surface Preparation for 3M™ VHB™ Tape Applications" for additional details and suggestions. (70-0704-8701-5)

\***Note:** Please consult with your local Air Quality District to ensure compliance. When using solvents, be sure to follow the manufacturer's precautions and directions for use.

## Application Techniques

### Initial and Final Pressure Application:

Bond strength is dependent upon the amount of adhesive-to-surface contact developed. Firm application pressure develops better adhesive contact and helps improve bond strength. Typically, good surface contact can be attained by applying enough pressure to ensure that the tape experiences approximately 100 kPa (15 psi) of pressure. Either roller or platen pressure can be used. When bonding two rigid parts, additional final pressure is often required to ensure that the bond line experiences 100 kPa (15 psi).

### Tape Application Temperature:

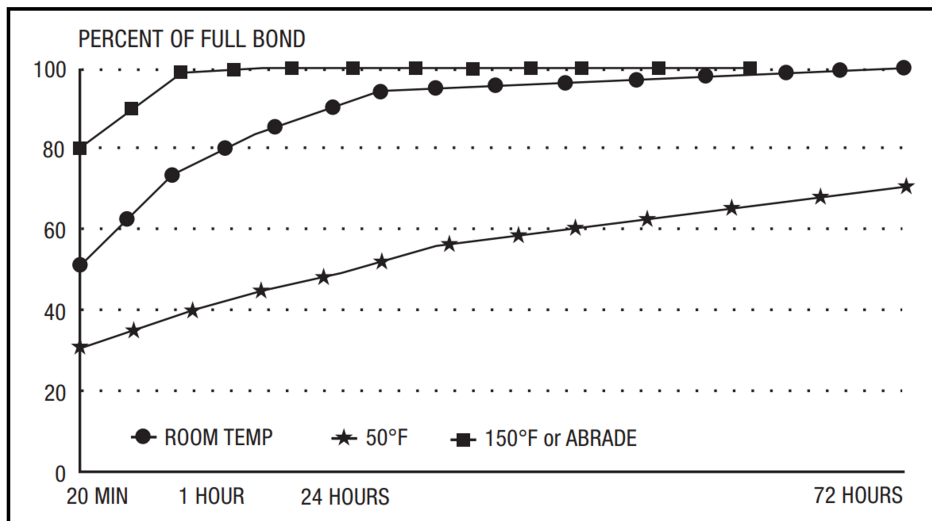
The ideal tape application temperature range for 3M™ VHB™ Tapes is generally 21°C to 38°C (70°F to 100°F). Pressure sensitive adhesives use viscous flow to achieve substrate contact area. The minimum suggested application temperature for most 3M™ VHB™ Tapes is 10°C to 15°C (50°F to 60°F)

**\*Note:** Initial tape application to surfaces at temperatures below these suggested minimums is not suggested because the adhesive becomes too firm to adhere readily. Ideally, all substrates and tape should be conditioned above the minimum application temperature in covered, weatherproof conditions until it is verified the substrates are at or above the minimum temperature. Once properly applied, low temperature holding is generally satisfactory.

### Bond Build Rate:

After application, the bond strength will gradually increase as the adhesive flows onto the surface (also referred to as “wet out”). The bond build rate will depend on both tape and substrate, but generally, at room temperature, approximately 50% of ultimate bond strength will be achieved after 20 minutes, 90% after 24 hours, and 100% after 72 hours. Adhesive flow is faster at higher temperatures and slower at lower temperatures. Ultimate bond strength can be accelerated (and in some cases bond strength can be increased) by exposure to elevated temperature (e.g. 66°C [150°F] for 1 hour). This can provide better adhesive wet out onto the substrates. Abrasion (~180 grit), or the use of primers/adhesion promoters can also increase both bond strength as well as the bond build rate.

## Typical Bond Build vs. Time



**\*Note:** Chart describes general performance of 3M™ VHB™ Tapes. Actual bond strength vs. time will depend on several factors including tape and substrate

## Design Considerations

### Adhesion:

Adhesion to the substrate is critical to achieving high bond strength. Adhesives must flow onto the substrate surfaces in order to achieve intimate contact area and allow the molecular force of attraction to develop. The degree of flow of the adhesive on the substrate is largely determined by the surface energy of the substrate.

### Tape Usage:

Use the right amount of VHB™ Tape to handle the expected stresses. Because 3M™ VHB™ Tapes are viscoelastic by nature, their strength and stiffness is a function of the rate at which they are stressed. They behave stronger when experiencing a higher rate of stress load (dynamic stresses) and will tend to show creep behavior with stress loads that act over a long period of time (static stresses). As a general rule, for static loads, approximately four square inches of tape should be used for each pound (57 cm<sup>2</sup> of tape per kg) of weight to be supported in order to prevent excessive creep. For dynamic loads a useful design factor is 12 lb/in<sup>2</sup> (85 kPa) for most dynamic stresses in general applications.

### Tape Thickness:

Achieving good contact is also important. The necessary thickness of tape depends on the rigidity of substrates as well as their flatness and/or irregularity. While 3M™ VHB™ Tape will conform to a certain amount of irregularity, they will not flow to fill large gaps between the materials. When bonding rigid materials with normal flatness, consider use of tapes with thickness of 45 mils (1.1 mm) or greater. As substrate flexibility increases, thinner tapes may be considered.

**Thermal Expansion/Contraction:**

3M™ VHB™ Tapes perform well in applications where two bonded surfaces may expand and contract at different rates. Assuming good adhesion to both substrates, VHB™ Tape can typically tolerate differential movement in the shear plane up to 3 times (300%) of their thickness.

**Bond Flexibility:**

While an advantage for many applications where allowing differential movement is a benefit, the tape bonds are typically more flexible than alternative fastening methods. Suitable design modifications or periodic use of rigid fasteners/adhesives may be necessary if additional stiffness is required.

**Industry Specifications**

UL 746C (File MH 17478)  
 UL 879 (File E65361)

**UL 746C Listings**

**3M™ VHB™ Tapes**  
**UL746C Listings - File MH 17478**  
 Category 000W2 Component - Polymeric Adhesive Systems, Electrical Equipment

3M™ VHB™ Tapes/ Product Families	Substrates	Temperature Rating	
		Minimum	Maximum
4914, 4920, 4930, 4950	Aluminum, Galvanized Steel, Enameled Steel, Stainless Steel, Ceramic, Glass/Epoxy	-35°C	110°C
	PBT	-35°C	90°C
	ABS, Polycarbonate, Rigid PVC	-35°C	75°C
4920, 4930, 4950, 4955, 4959, 4959F	Acrylic	-35°C	90°C
	Glass / Galvanized Steel*, Glass / Glass*, Galvanized Steel / Aluminum*, Aluminum / Aluminum*	-35°C	120°C
4945	Phenolic, Aluminum, Galvanized Steel, Alkyd Enamel, Enameled Steel	-35°C	110°C
	ABS, Polycarbonate, Polyamide, Stainless Steel, Acrylic/Polyurethane Paint, Polyester Paint	-35°C	90°C
	Unplasticized PVC	-35°C	75°C
4905, 4910	Polycarbonate, Aluminum, Acrylic/Polyurethane Paint	-35°C	90°C
4611, 4646, 4655	Stainless Steel, Aluminum, Galvanized Steel, Glass, Glass/Epoxy, Phenolic	-35°C	110°C
	Nylon, Polycarbonate	-35°C	90°C
	ABS, Rigid PVC	-35°C	75°C

\* Substrates can be used with or without primer(s)/Coating. 3M Silane Coating, 3M Adhesion Promoter 4298UV and 3M Tape Primer 94 are used with glass substrate. 3M Primer AP111, 3M Adhesion Promoter 4298UV and 3M Tape Primer 94 are used with aluminum and galvanized steel substrates.

**Storage and Shelf Life**

Store in original cartons at 4-38°C (40-100°F) and 0-95% relative humidity. Optimum storage conditions are 22°C (72°F) and 50% relative humidity. When stored under proper conditions, product retains its performance and properties for 24 months from date of manufacture.

## Available Sizes

Attribute Name	Value
Core Size (ID)	76.2 mm
Maximum Available Width	1219 mm
Minimum Available Width	6.4 mm
Normal Slitting Tolerance	±0.79 mm
Standard Roll Length	32.9 m <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Longer roll lengths are available for most 3M™ VHB™ Tapes. Exact length will depend on caliper and width.

## Automotive Disclaimer

### Select Automotive Applications:

This product is an industrial product and has not been designed or tested for use in certain automotive applications, such as automotive electric powertrain battery or high voltage applications, which may require the product to be manufactured in a IATF certified facility, meet a Ppk of 1.33 for all properties, undergo an automotive production part approval process (PPAP), or fully adhere to automotive design or quality system requirements (e.g., IATF 16949 or VDA 6.3). Customer assumes all responsibility and risk if customer chooses to use this product in these applications.

## Information

Intended Use: 3M™ VHB™ Tape products are intended for use in general industrial bonding applications when used in accordance with the guidance provided by 3M in this Technical Data Sheet and other product instructions. Since there are many factors that can affect a product's use, the customer remains responsible for determining whether the 3M product is suitable and appropriate for the customer's specific application and system, including customer conducting an appropriate risk assessment and evaluating the 3M product in customer's application and system. Restricted Use: 3M advises against the use of this 3M product in any application other than the stated intended use(s), since other applications have not been evaluated by 3M and may result in an unsafe or unintended condition. Important Information: All statements, technical information and recommendations contained in this document are based upon tests or experience that 3M believes are reliable. However, many factors beyond 3M's control can affect the use and performance of a 3M product in a particular application, including the conditions under which the product is used and the time and environmental conditions in which the product is expected to perform. Since these factors are uniquely within the user's knowledge and control, it is essential that the user evaluate the 3M product to determine whether it is fit for a particular purpose and suitable for the user's method or application. All questions of liability relating to this product are governed by the terms of the sale subject, where applicable, to the prevailing law. Values presented have been determined by standard test methods and are average values not to be used for specification purposes. Our recommendations on the use of our products are based on tests believed to be reliable but we would ask that you conduct your own tests to determine their suitability for your applications. This is because 3M cannot accept any responsibility or liability direct or consequential for loss or damage caused as a result of our recommendations.

## ISO Statement

This product was manufactured under a 3M quality system registered to ISO 9001 standards.

3M™ Centre  
Cain Rd, Binfield, Bracknell RG12 8HT, United Kingdom  
3m.co.uk/iatd

3M and VHB are trademarks of 3M Company.  
©3M 2024 (9/24)