3M Science. Applied to Life.™



Sales Guide for Masking Systems from 3M

The masking process is often the most overlooked component of the overall refinish process. However, masking is very time-consuming and significantly contributes to the overall quality of repairs.

Adopting a premium masking process, along with choosing high-quality products, pays off by saving time and reducing the potential for rework.

Review your masking process as a whole - are you using modern products along with efficient repair methods?

From premium performance to cost-effective solutions, or anything in between, 3M has you covered. You can count on 3M to provide a simple and straightforward lineup of masking tape that will meet your performance needs. The right tape to get the job done.



Choose the right paper tape for your job:

- What surface will the tape be applied to?
- Where will the masking take place (outside, in the booth, etc.)?
- How long will the tape remain on the car before and after painting?
- Do you sand over the tape?
- How does the paint dry (bake cycle, air dry, etc.)?
- Does your tape need to bend around curves without tearing or lifting?
- What climate are you masking in?
- Will there be UV exposure?
- Will the masking tape be exposed to high temperatures?
- Do you use solvent-based and/or water-based paint?

Attributes / Product Lines	3M™ Performance Green Masking Tape 233+	3M™ High Performance Blue Masking Tape 3434	3M™ Performance Yellow Masking Tape 388N	3M™ Automotive Masking Tape 2308
Adhesion	◕	●	◕	◔
Conformabilty	●	◑	◕	◔
Sliver resistance	●	◑	◕	◔
Adhesive Transfer resistance	●	◕	◕	◕
Flaking resistance	●	◕	●	◕
Temperature resistance (30mins)	250°F	230°F	250°F	250°F
Humidity resistance	◕	●	◕	◑
Abrasion resistance	●	◕	●	◔
Outdoor / UV resistance (3 days)	✓	✓	✓	
Prevents bleed through	✓	✓	✓	✓

A premium all around masking tape with superior conformability and excellent clean removal.





A specialty premium masking tape with superior adhesion for challenging surfaces and environments.

A balanced all around masking tape with excellent stick and stay.





A cost-effective masking tape good for everyday use.

Plastic Sheeting - consider easy cut, temperature and paint flaking resistance, and tape repositioning properties.

3M™ Plastic Sheeting offers multi-tier performance options for your masking process.



Is exact masking on moldings a challenge?



3M™ Trim Masking Tape is easy to slide behind the molding and lifts it away, allowing paint to flow underneath.

Do you need smooth paint edges on apertures like doors, hoods, and trunk lids?



3M™ Soft Edge Foam PLUS Masking Tape was created to help mask these easily.

Do you need smooth paint edges and transition zones?



Instead of creating something out of paper tape, like “flip tape”, simply use 3M™ Smooth Transition Tape.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How to choose the right tape?
Choosing the right tape for automotive applications requires careful consideration of several factors to ensure optimal performance and cost-effectiveness. Start by assessing the paint type and environment, as outdoor applications may require a tape that resists UV exposure and moisture. Consider the duration the tape will be applied; for extended periods, a tape with adhesive that allows for clean removal without leaving residue. Price is also important; while a premium tape may be more expensive, it often provides superior performance, enhances productivity, and reduces the risk of rework. Select a tape with release coatings and primer layers to keep the adhesive anchored to the backing, and with strong adhesives for clean removal and durable adhesion on substrates like rubber or glass. In humid environments or where condensation is possible, choose a tape with water resistance, and for outdoor use, ensuring it can withstand prolonged UV exposure without degrading. By evaluating these factors—type, environment, duration, price, and specific tape features—you can select the right tape that meets your needs and ensures reliable performance.

Why reduce the use of masking paper for large area masking?
Using premium masking sheeting will pay for itself (in comparison to using masking paper) due to shorter masking time and reduced rework. The surface of 3M™ Plastic Sheeting is specially treated to help paint adhere to it and prevent flaking. Sheeting generally stays on throughout the whole process, providing efficiency and fuller protection.

How to avoid reworking rough edges by sanding and polishing?
Edge “elopement” is a physical effect that occurs when coating surfaces. This causes the coating on edges to be thinner than on flat surfaces, which often leads to massive rework due to sanding or polishing through the edges. This can be prevented by using 3M™ Soft Edge Foam Masking Tape PLUS and 3M™ Smooth Transition Tape, which are specifically engineered to soften or virtually eliminate hard paint lines on automotive jambs, bonnets, boot lines and other areas where paint must blend seamlessly. This helps paint to feather for virtually invisible paint lines.

How to maintain your masking tape performance?
Masking tape can deteriorate in quality over time if not handled properly. Store your masking products correctly to preserve their balanced properties and adhesion—ideally at 70°F and 50% relative humidity in a clean, dry space without direct sunlight. Leaving a roll inside a booth and subjecting it to bake cycles can negatively affect performance.

What is best practice for applying masking tape?
Avoid stretching the tape, especially when applying it in cavities or dips, and choose the right tape for your application and environment. 3M™ Masking Tape uses pressure-sensitive adhesive, so be sure to firmly press the edge of the tape to ensure proper adhesion and prevent unclean edges.

What is best practice for demasking?
The removal of masking tape and film is best done when the car has just finished the bake cycle and is still warm. It is recommended to remove masking tape by pulling at a 45° angle to the surface. A flatter or sharper angle increases the risk of leaving adhesive residue on the surface. Using premium masking tape will pay off here, as it has a lower tendency to leave adhesive residue or to sliver.

3M™ Performance Green Masking Tape 233+

Dimensions	Part No.	Rolls / Sleeve	Rolls / Case
1/8 in x 60 yds (3 mm x 55 m)	26343	12	144
¼ in x 60 yds (6 mm x 55 m)	26344	12	96
½ in x 60 yds (12 mm x 55 m)	26332	12	48
¾ in x 60 yds (18 mm x 55 m)	26334	12	48
1 in x 60 yds (24 mm x 55 m)	26336	6	24
1 ½ in x 60 yds (36 mm x 55 m)	26338	4	16
2 in x 60 yds (48 mm x 55 m)	26340	3	12
3 in x 60 yds (72 mm x 55 m)	26341	2	8
3.75 in x 60 yds (96 mm x 55 m)	44608	2	8

3M™ High Performance Blue Masking Tape 3434

Dimensions	Part No.	Rolls / Sleeve	Rolls / Case
¾ in x 54.6 yds (18 mm x 50 m)	07895	12	48
1 in x 54.6 yds (24 mm x 50 m)	07897	9	36
1 ½ in x 54.6 yds (36 mm x 50 m)	07898	6	24
2 in x 54.6 yds (48 mm x 50 m)	07899	5	20

3M™ Performance Yellow Masking Tape 388N

Dimensions	Part No.	Rolls / Sleeve	Rolls / Case
¾ in x 60 yds (18 mm x 55 m)	06652	12	48
1 in x 60 yds (24 mm x 55 m)	06653	9	36
1 ½ in x 60 yds (36 mm x 55 m)	06654	6	24
2 in x 60 yds (48 mm x 55 m)	06656	6	24

3M™ Automotive Masking Tape 2308

Dimensions	Part No.	Rolls/Sleeve	Rolls / Case
¾ in x 60 yds (18 mm x 55 m)	06545	12	48
1 ½ in x 60 yds (36 mm x 55 m)	06547	6	24
2 in x 60 yds (48 mm x 55 m)	06548	6	24

3M™ Perforated Trim Masking Tape

Dimensions	Part No.	Rolls / Case
5 mm, 50 mm x 10 m	06345	6
7 mm, 50 mm x 10 m	06347	6
10 mm, 50 mm x 10 m	06349	6
15 mm, 50 mm x 10 m	06348	6

3M™ Smooth Transition Tape, White

Dimensions	Part No.	Quantity	Rolls/Case
6,35 mm x 9 m	06800	Single	60

3M™ Plastic Sheeting Multi-Tier Performance

Dimensions	Part No.	Quantity
12’x400’	06723	1/Pack
16’x400’	06724	1/Pack
20’x250’	06742	1/Pack
12’x400’	06727	1/Pack
16’x400’	06728	1/Pack
16’x250’	06725	1/Pack

3M™ Soft Edge Foam Masking Tape PLUS

Dimensions	Part No.	Quantity
21 mm x 7 m	50421	1/Pack

Find out more about 3M™ Masking Products:



View our masking application process chart:

Download PDF

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For additional information, including important safety and warranty information, regarding 3M Automotive Aftermarket Products, please visit: www.3MCollision.com/info

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