

## Gerber InstaChange™ Removable Film manufactured by 3M

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### DESCRIPTION

Gerber InstaChange is a durable, removable, scratch-resistant vinyl custom formulated by 3M for use with the GERBER EDGE®, GERBER EDGE 2®, and GERBER EDGE FX™ thermal transfer printing systems, in conjunction with GerberColor™ Foils. For up to two years after application, the film's unique adhesive allows the graphic to be removed from most surfaces without leaving an adhesive residue and without the aid of chemicals, accessories, or heat.

### INTENDED APPLICATIONS

Gerber InstaChange is ideally suited for interior and exterior emblems, logos, signs, point of purchase, and vehicular applications. This film has superior hiding power because of its gray pigmented adhesive. It is designed for application to flat surfaces with and without rivets. The user should determine the suitability of all substrates prior to actual application.

This film is not recommended for use on corrugated or highly irregular surfaces. It is not recommended for flexible sign face or flexible banner either. It is also not intended for applications where petrochemical contact may occur (It can be used in non-spill areas such as doors on cars and trucks). If petrochemical exposure is anticipated, refer to the section below on protecting graphics.

Application of Gerber InstaChange to stainless steel substrates or over 3M™ Scotchlite™ Reflective Graphic Films or Gerber 280 or 280i Reflective Film is not recommended.

## PERFORMANCE LIFE (UNPRINTED)

Gerber InstaChange has an expected performance life of up to two years when applied vertically.

Performance statements are based upon field experience and exposure tests conducted throughout the United States. Substrate selection, exposure angle, environmental conditions, and maintenance of markings will affect actual performance. Continuous exposure in regions that experience maximum sunny days will result in decreased performance. This product is not recommended for horizontal applications.

## SHELF LIFE AND STORAGE

Apply film within one year of receipt. Printed graphics should also be applied within one year. Film and printed graphics (with or without premask) should be kept in a clean area free from excessive moisture and direct sunlight. Maintain temperature at less than 100°F (38°C). Use a paper interleaf between layers of stacked or rolled printed materials. Do not stack printed graphics face to face.

## PRINTING

If your software material selection palette does not have Gerber InstaChange, use Gerber HP 220 Series normal print settings.

GerberColor Spot (GCS), GerberColor Process Pro™ CMYK (GCP), GerberColor Medal (GCM), and GerberColor Transparent (GCT) Series Foils can be used to print onto InstaChange.

Recommended working environment is as follows:

- Operating temperature: 50°F to 95°F / 10°C to 35°C
- Recommended temperature for assured printing accuracy: 68°F to 78°F / 20°C to 26°C
- Operating humidity: 20% to 90% relative humidity, non-condensing (maximum range; actual range varies by material used)

## PROTECTING GRAPHICS

Gerber Technology offers products that are designed to protect vinyl and printed graphics.

Gerber Guard™ manufactured by 3M is a durable, dimensionally stable, glossy vinyl overlamine. This film has a petrochemical-resistant construction and is intended to be used when markings may be exposed to petrochemical spillage and/or severe handling conditions.

Gerber UVGuard™ is a custom-formulated, 1-mil, clear, TEDLAR® polyvinyl fluoride (PVF) laminating film designed to further expand the resistance to weathering of printed graphics for up to five years.

Gerber UVGuard™ 9 manufactured by 3M is a 2-mil, glossy, clear, mildew-resistant, polyvinyl fluoride laminating film with a petrochemical-resistant adhesive system. It is designed to further expand the resistance to weathering of printed graphics up to nine years. Gerber UVGuard 9 has the highest protection from UV fade.

Gerber StrikeGuard™ is an 8.0-mil, clear, glossy overlamine film designed for a variety of applications. This heavy-duty overlamine film is ideal for the protection of graphics, up to two years, and is especially beneficial where printed graphics experience severe handling and forceful impact. Gerber StrikeGuard is not recommended

in applications that require petrochemical protection or where additional UV or vandal resistance is desired.

Abrasion Guard™ SPF (Sign Protection Formula) is a clear, top-coat GerberColor Finishing Series (GCF) Foil designed for use with EDGE® Series thermal transfer printing systems, to protect graphics from moderate contact and exposure to harmful effects of UV rays. It has an expected performance life of up to five years (when printed by itself). When applied as a protective overprint on other GerberColor Foils, Abrasion Guard SPF will extend the life of the base color by up to 30%.

Matte Clear is a clear matte finish, top coat GerberColor Foil designed for use with EDGE® Series thermal transfer printing systems, to reduce glare and protect graphics from moderate contact or handling. It has an expected performance life of up to three years.

## **CUTTING**

Gerber InstaChange can be cut on any 15-inch EDGE-compatible sprocketed plotter.

A 30° SuperSharp blade is recommended. Plotters can be set to full speed. The user should perform a test cut to determine the ideal tool force setting.

## **SUBSTRATE PREPARATION**

Before applying your graphic, wash the surface of your substrate with warm water and detergent. Do not use soaps or other cleaners with lotions or creams as they will leave a residue. Thoroughly rinse the surface and allow it to completely dry.

Saturate a clean paper towel with a solvent-based cleaner and wipe the substrate surface. Be certain to follow all manufacturer safety guidelines when using any solvent. Dry the surface with a lint-free paper towel before the solvent evaporates.

If applying to glass, solvent wipe the surface with a 2 to 1 mixture of water and isopropyl alcohol. Glass temperatures can vary across the surface. These temperature variations can produce stresses which may cause the glass to break. Use caution when applying to glass.

Some polycarbonate substrates may weaken when certain vinyl films are applied to them. Because of this possibility, the user will need to determine if safety items such as helmets, safety shields, and some windshields are compatible with their vinyl's adhesive.

Many paint systems (e.g. two-part urethane) and some polycarbonate substrates will outgas if they are not fully cured. Outgassing can cause permanent bubbling in most films; substrates should be tested for outgassing prior to final application.

## **APPLICATION TECHNIQUES**

Dry application methods should be used with Gerber InstaChange and panels can be overlapped or butted.

Gerber standard tack application tape is required for all EDGE-printed graphics.

A "snap tape test" should be used to determine the removal effects of InstaChange on painted surfaces. Using a razor or other sharp instrument, cut a crosshatch pattern through the paint (Cut should be made in an inconspicuous area). The crosshatch pattern should be one inch wide with a spacing of approximately 1/5 inch (5.08 mm) between cut lines. Using a squeegee, firmly apply a strip of aggressive pressure sensitive tape over the crosshatch pattern. (Use Scotch™ Tape #610 or equivalent.) Remove tape at 180° angle using a firm, rapid pull.

This test should be performed whenever there is doubt concerning the integrity of paint to substrate adhesion (i.e. paint to wall board). Any sign of lifting, peeling or bubbling of the paint

indicates poor paint adhesion. This could result in damage to the substrate when graphic removal is attempted.

## MAINTENANCE

To clean printed graphics, use a mild, non-abrasive soap with a soft cloth or sponge. Avoid using alcohol-based cleansers or soaps containing grit or abrasives. Automated vehicle washing systems that use rotary cleaning brushes should also be avoided.

## PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Thickness	5 mils with adhesive
Film Color	White
Adhesive	Removable
Adhesive Color	Pigmented Gray
Liner	78-lb white kraft paper
Tensile Strength	13.5 lb/in/min (2.43 kg/cm/min)
Elongation	200%
Dimensional Stability	.015 (.38 mm)
Application Temp	28°F to 110°F (-2°C to 43°C)
Removable Temp	28°F to 110°F (-2°C to 43°C)
Operating Temperature	-40°F to 150°F (-40°C to 66°C)

## CHEMICAL RESISTANCE (UNPRINTED)

Chemical Agent	Exposure Time	Result
Water	24 hours	No effect
50/50 Ethylene glycol/water	24 hours	Yellowing
Reference Fuel	1 hour	Adhesive softening
SAE 20 motor oil	24 hours	No effect
# 1 diesel fuel	1 hour	Edge lifting
10% Hydrochloric acid	10 minutes	No effect
10% Ammonium Hydroxide	10 minutes	No effect
Mineral spirits	10 minutes	No effect
VM & P Naphtha	10 minutes	No effect

## RELATED LITERATURE

Refer to Product Bulletins of relevant foils and materials for product-specific handling, production, and finishing information.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Graphic Marking Systems • 800-232-8018 • [www.ShopGMS.com](http://www.ShopGMS.com)

When sold by Gerber, use only the corresponding Gerber Product Bulletin to determine product details, including but not limited to appropriate uses, warranty and processing.

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