# 3M™ Controltac™ Print Film

#### Product Bulletin 40C Revision G, May 2022

**Quick Links** 

## 40C-10R 40C-20R 40C-114R

### **Product Description**

- For solvent, eco-solvent, UV, and latex inkjet and screen printing
- 3-mil vinyl films

#### **Product Features**

- Available in gloss (10R), matte (20R), and transparent luster (114R) finishes
- Comply<sup>™</sup> adhesive for fast, easy, bubble-free installations
- Pressure-activated adhesive for easy sliding, tacking, snap up, and repositioning
- Removable with heat from most surfaces within the expected performance life
- Expected performance life varies depending on end usage:
  - Most General Signage: Seven years (unwarranted period for unprinted film with no graphic protection, applied to a flat, vertical, out-door surface)
  - Indoor Floor Graphics: One year (unwarranted period for unprinted film protected by <u>3M™ Scotchcal™ Luster Overlaminate 3645</u> applied to a flat, non-vertical surface)
  - Indoor Carpeted Floor Graphics: Three months (unwarranted period for unprinted film protected by <u>3M™ Scotchcal™ Luster Over-</u> laminate 8509 or <u>3M™ Envision™ Matte Overlaminate 8050M</u>, applied to a flat, non-vertical surface)

# Recommended Types of Graphics and End Uses

- General intermediate signage for outdoor and indoor applications
- Interior and exterior building windows and dividers
- Indoor floor and carpet graphics
- Truck graphics on flat areas or simple curved areas
- Partial vehicle wraps on flat areas or simple curved areas

#### () IMPORTANT NOTE

3M floor and carpet graphics, except for 3662, are for indoor usage only. They require the use of 3M<sup>™</sup> Scotchcal<sup>™</sup> Overlaminates 3645, 3647, 8509, 8510M, or 8520, or 3M<sup>™</sup> Envision<sup>™</sup> Matte Overlaminates 8050M or 8550M, each of which provides a slip-resistant surface.

When applying graphics to carpet, it is solely the user's responsibility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design, which includes, but is not limited to:

**302.2 Carpet.** Carpet or carpet tile shall be securely attached and shall have a firm cushion, pad, or backing or no cushion or pad. Carpet or carpet tile shall have a level loop, textured loop, level cut pile, or level cut/uncut pile texture. Pile height shall be 1/2 inch (13 mm) maximum. Exposed edges of carpet shall be fastened to floor surfaces and shall have trim on the entire length of the exposed edge.

<u>3M Graphics Warranties</u> <u>Technical Information Selector</u> <u>Safety Data Sheets (SDS)</u> <u>Flammability</u> <u>Videos</u>

Some of these links lead to web-based resources that are not product-specific.





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Loose or damaged floor or carpet graphics may cause a person to slip, trip, or fall. To reduce the risk of slipping, tripping, or falling on floor graphics:

- Use only 3M Overlaminates 3645, 3647, 8509, 8510M, 8520, 8050M, or 8550M, each of which has a slip-resistant surface.
- Properly apply graphics only on hard indoor floors, or carpets with a pile as described in the ADA Standards for Accessible Design, Section 302.2.
- Immediately remove or replace loose or damaged graphics. Do not attempt to repair or readhere them.

Failure to heed this caution may result in personal injury.

#### **Graphic Protection**

Graphic protection can improve the appearance, performance, and durability of a graphic. Use only the graphic protection options recommended for film 40C by this bulletin.

- <u>3M™ Scotchcal™ Luster Overlaminate 3645</u> •
- <u>3M™ Scotchcal™ Matte Overlaminate 3647</u>
- <u>3M™ Envision™ Gloss Overlaminate 8048G</u>
- <u>3M™ Envision™ Matte Overlaminate 8050M</u>
- <u>3M™ Scotchcal™ Gloss Overlaminate 8508</u>
- <u>3M™ Scotchcal™ Luster Overlaminate 8509</u>
- <u>3M™ Scotchcal™ Matte Overlaminate 8510</u>
- <u>3M™ Scotchcal™ Matte Overlaminate 8520</u>
- 3M<sup>™</sup> Envision<sup>™</sup> Matte Overlaminate 8550M

#### (i) **IMPORTANT NOTE**

During installation, scratches may occur on films without graphic protection.

### Characteristics

These are the typical values for unprocessed product. Processing may change the values.

#### **Physical Characteristics**

Characteristic	40C-10R	40C-20R	40C-114R
Material	Vinyl		
Film Color	White, opaque		Transparent
Finish	Gloss	Matte	Luster
Thickness	Without adhesive: 3 mil (0.081 mm) With adhesive: 4 mil (0.102 mm)		
Adhesive	Pressure-activated (slide, tack, snap up, reposition) with air release channels		
Adhesive Color	Gray		Clear
Liner	Polyethylene-coated paper		
Flammability	Refer to ASTM E84 reports <u>40C-10R</u> and <u>40C-20R</u> or the online product catalog at <u>3Mgraphics.com</u> . For all other test reports, call: 1-800-328-3908		

### **Application Characteristics**

Characteristic	Value	
Finished Graphic Application Recommendation	<ul> <li>Surface type:</li> <li>Most Graphics: Smooth and flat with or without rivets (expect tenting), simple curves</li> <li>Indoor Floor Graphics Only: Smooth and flat (no surface texture)</li> <li>Substrate type:</li> <li>Most Graphics: Painted metal, other painted substrates, rigid plastic, glass</li> <li>Indoor Floor Graphics Only: Most indoor floors including tile, sealed concrete, terrazzo, ceramic, and finished wood. Low pile, secured floor carpets.</li> <li>Application temperature: 40°F to 100°F (4.4°C to 38°C) for both air and substrate</li> <li>Application method: Dry</li> </ul>	
Temperature Range After Application	-30°F to +200°F (-34°C to +93°C) (Though not for extended periods of time at the extremes.)	
Graphic Removal	Removable with heat from most surfaces within the expected performance life.	

# Factors Affecting Graphic Performance Life

The actual performance life of a graphic is affected by:

- The combination of graphic materials used
- Complete ink drying or curing
- Selection, condition, and preparation of the substrate
- Surface texture
- Application methods
- The angle and direction of sun exposure
- Environmental conditions
- Cleaning and maintenance methods

### **Graphics Manufacturing**

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Before using any equipment, always read the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.

#### **Inkjet Printing**

Always read and follow the ink manufacturer's written instructions on usage.

- Sheeted film: When used on a flat-bed inkjet printer, sheeted film may produce printing defects.
- Ink limiting: The recommended total ink limit is 250%.
- Storing sheeted and stacked graphics: If you plan to store sheeted and stacked finished graphics for an extended period of time, leave an unprinted margin (about 1/4 in.) on all sides to allow for possible shrinkage before trimming the graphic.

Do not exceed the recommended total ink coverage for the ink series used on this film. Having too much ink on the film results in media characteristic changes, incomplete drying, overlaminate lifting, and/or poor graphic performance.

#### **Completely Dry Graphics**

#### (i) IMPORTANT NOTE

Incomplete drying or curing can result in graphic failure including curling, increased shrinkage, and adhesion failure, which are not covered under any 3M Graphics warranty.

See the ink's 3M product and instruction bulletins for more details.

### Cutting

See <u>3M Instruction Bulletin 4.1</u> for sheeting, scoring, and film cutting details.

### **Screen Printing**

Formulations and processing conditions can affect ink durability. Refer to your ink's product and instruction bulletins for limitations and proper usage.

### Application and Installation

In addition to other 3M bulletins specified in this document, the following bulletins provide detailsusers may need to successfully apply a graphic.

- <u>3M Instruction Bulletin 5.1</u> Select and Prepare Substrates for Graphic Application
- <u>3M Instruction Bulletin 5.19</u> Application and Maintenance of Floor Graphics
- <u>3M Instruction Bulletin 5.36</u> Application Techniques for Automobiles, Vans and Buses
- Complete the 3M Pre-Installation Inspection Record found in 5.36 prior to manufacturing or applying a graphic to an automobile, van, or bus.
- <u>3M Instruction Bulletin 5.4</u> Application: Fleet Trucks.
- <u>3M Instruction Bulletin 5.5</u> Application, General Procedures for Interior and Exterior Dry Application
- <u>3M Instruction Bulletin 6.5</u> Storage, Handling, Maintenance and Removal of Films and Sheetings
- <u>3M Product and Instruction Bulletin V-Tools</u> 3M<sup>™</sup> Vehicle Channel Applicator Tools

#### IMPORTANT NOTE

UV inkjet inks may crack if too much heat is used when applying graphics to complex curves and deep contours as well as around rivets. During application, ensure the film surface temperature does not exceed 212°F (100°C). For best results, **always do a test application** of a printed graphic to determine how much heat can be used without damaging the image.

3M recommends using a heat gun in the post-application process for vehicle graphics. Heat the film's surface to a minimum of 200°F (93°C) but no more than 225°F (107°C), or no more than the lowest specified maximum temperature for any other component, whichever is lower.

#### Pressure-activated Adhesive

The pressure activated adhesive on this film offers:

- smooth sliding into position on a substrate;
- fast finger tacking to check positioning; and
- easy snap-up and repositioning when you need it.

#### The snap-up and reposition feature is lost:

- when firm pressure with a squeegee or other application tool is applied;
- at application temperatures above 100°F (38°C) even if only light finger pressure was used for tacking;
- if any part of the film is removed from the original liner and reapplied to the same or another liner; or
- if solvent from inkjet ink has not completely dried or cured, affecting both slideability and snap-up.

#### Working with Air Release Channels

Air release channels are a characteristic of films with Comply<sup>™</sup> adhesive that allow trapped air to exit through the edges of the graphic.

• The channels will be damaged if you remove and attempt to change liners or reapply the same liner.

For the best results, always work from the center of a graphic out to the edges to allow trapped air to escape. If air is trapped, use an air release tool to help remove air bubbles. See <u>3M Instruction Bulletin 5.4</u> for details.

#### Working with Rivets

- This film will tent when applied over rivets.
- If the rivets are closely spaced, the film will bridge between rivets.
- Tented or bridged film may fail prematurely.
- For the best appearance and durability, 3M recommends cutting around the rivet, removing the circle of film, and then re-squeegeeing around the rivet.

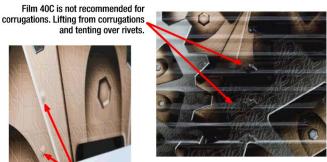
# Film Lifting and Tenting

Film 40C is an excellent choice for graphics applied to flat and simple curved surfaces, and even for riveted surfaces if tenting is not a concern. Users should understand the challenges of using this film on complex surfaces to ensure satisfaction with the results.

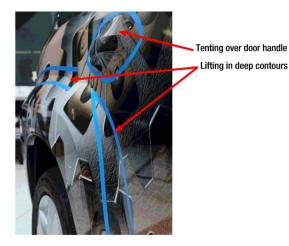
#### (i) IMPORTANT NOTE

Film 40C is not highly conformable, meaning it remembers its original shape. It is not a good choice for surfaces with complex curves, deep channels, severe contours, or corrugations. Even with the use of primer, heat, tools, and advanced installation skills, the film is likely to lift or tent, either during the application or within hours or days of the application.

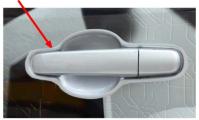
The following photos show the risks of applying film 40C to complex surfaces.



Tenting over rivets even on relatively flat surfaces.



For good results on flat or simple curved vehicle surfaces with doors, cut film out around door handle.



# Maintenance and Cleaning

Use a cleaner designed for high-quality painted surfaces. The cleaner must be wet, non-abrasive, without solvents, and have a pH value between 3 and 11 (neither strongly acidic nor strongly alkaline). See <u>3M Instruction Bulletin 6.5</u> for details.

### Removal

Removal may require the use of heat. The ease and rate of removal depends on a number of factors. See <u>3M Instruction Bulletin 6.5</u> for details.

# Shelf Life, Storage, and Shipping

#### Shelf Life

The shelf life is **never more than two years** from the date of manufacture on the original box.

If you process the film, its shelf life is changed to **one year** from the processing date, but no later than two years from the manufacturing date.

#### Storage Conditions

- 90°F (32°C) maximum
- Out of sunlight
- Clean, dry area
- Original container
- Bring the film to print room temperature before using

#### Shipping Finished Graphics

Flat, or rolled printed side out on a 6 in. (15 cm) or larger core. This helps prevent the liner, if used, from popping off.

# Health and Safety

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When handling any chemical products, read the manufacturers' container labels and the safety data sheets (SDS) for important health, safety, and environmental information. To obtain SDS for 3M products go to <u>3M.com/SDS</u>. To request SDS by mail, or in case of an urgent situation, call 1-800-364-3577 or 1-651-737-6501.

When using any equipment, always follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.

### Warranty Information

#### Warranty Coverage Overview

The warranty coverage for eligible graphics is based on the user both reading and following all applicable and current 3M Graphics product and instruction bulletins. The warranty period for eligible graphics is as stated in the 3M Graphics Warranties Matrices at the time the film was purchased. Information found at <u>3M.com/graphicswarranties</u> includes:

- <u>3M Graphics Warranties Bulletin</u>
  - This bulletin contains information on limitations, exceptions, and warranty period reductions for 3M Graphics warranties. The warranty
    period may be reduced and stipulations may apply for certain constructions, applications, and graphic exposures as covered in this
    bulletin.
- <u>3M Graphics Warranties Selector</u>
  - Use this selector to search for your vertical warranty period by product type, ink type, film name, and/or ink/printer platform.
- U.S. Desert Southwest Region Map
  - Use this map of hot, arid desert areas to determine if you are subject to reduced warranted durabilities.

#### **Technical Information**

The technical information, guidance, and other statements contained in this document or otherwise provided by 3M are based upon records, tests, or experience that 3M believes to be reliable, but the accuracy, completeness, and representative nature of such information is not guaranteed. Such information is intended for people with knowledge and technical skills sufficient to assess and apply their own informed judgment to the information. No license under any 3M or third party intellectual property rights is granted or implied with this information.

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