

Protective Coatings

Protective coatings that are applied on installed windows at the jobsites is becoming an increasing popular method of protecting the installed windows from construction site dirt and damage. Although Graham Architectural Products (GAP) encourages using methods to protect installed windows, there are some precautions that go along with their use. There are two types of protective coatings that we are aware of. Self-adhesive plastic film, and liquid-applied coatings. If not used properly, these products could affect the appearance and long-term performance of the assembled windows or doors. Below are the precautions for using each product.

Self-adhesive Plastic Film:

- If a self-adhesive plastic film is applied over the entire window assembly on the interior and/or the exterior, there must be adequate ventilation to prevent the temperature of the products from exceeding 110° F (43.3° C). Temperatures exceeding this threshold can damage the sealants in the insulating glass. Heat build can also cause stress fractures in the glass.
- Self-adhesive protective films cannot be on the product for more than 90 days from the date of application, otherwise, it will be very difficult to remove the film from the window finish.
- Be careful when removing any protective coatings, so the removal doesn't damage the window or door. If the removal of the protective coating damages the product, the resulting damage will not be covered by the GAP warranty.

Liquid-applied Protective Coatings:

- Liquid-applied protective coatings will out-gas certain chemicals while it is curing. Some of these chemicals could damage the sealants in the window, including insulating glass sealants, and could cause paints to not meet their normal life expectancy. Any damage to a window or door that is attributed to a liquid-applied protective coating will not be covered by the GAP warranty.

Note: *Graham Architectural Products does not recommend using liquid-applied protective coatings due to the unknown affects the coating could have on assembled windows or doors.*