



Ideal Tint

## Detailed Installation Instructions

### Tools Needed for Installing Window Film:

Tape measure  
Water  
Dawn Dishwashing Liquid  
Spray Bottle  
6 - 12 Inch Rubber-blade Squeegee  
Firm-blade Installation Squeegee  
Razor Blade Scraper  
Break-away Utility Knife  
Hard Card and/or Five-way Tool  
Lint-free cloth (for cleaning the glass and film)



Installation tools are available on our website [IdealTint.com](http://IdealTint.com).

### Preparation:

1. Fill a spray bottle with 1/4 tsp of Dawn dishwashing soap to 1qt. bottled water.
2. A small utility knife with breakaway blades is the best tool for trimming film. Always cut film with a sharp blade. Snap to a new blade often.
3. Use lint-free towels or high-quality paper towels. Be careful not to get lint fibers between the film and the window.
4. Window film is applied on the interior glass surface. Start on smaller windows to gain experience and a feel for handling and working with window film. Work your way up to larger panes.

### Helpful Tips:

- Use Dawn dish washing liquid and water for the soap and water solution
- Use filtered or distilled water if your water is hard or has visible floating solids
- Work with a partner
- Avoid applying film on hot sunlit windows
- Do not crease the film
- Keep dust down to a minimum
- Film may be removed, but not reused

## Application:

### Step 1 – Measure the Window

Measure the dimensions of your window carefully before cutting the film. Film may be applied from side to side, or top to bottom. Cut the film from the box using the measurement that best limits waste.

### Step 2 – Clean the Window

Start by spraying the window with the Dawn and water. Use your hand, wet paper towel or scratch resistant scrub pad to wash the window and frame. Rewet the glass and wipe clean with a rubber edge squeegee. Wet the window then scrape with a razor blade scraper to remove any caked dirt or paint; Wet the window again then squeegee off the water. Wipe off any dirt from the window gasket with a paper towel or soft cloth. Repeat process until the glass is clean.

### Step 3 – Rough Cut the Film

Use a tape measure and rough cut the film from the box on a clean, flat surface near the window. Add 1" to 2" to the width and length dimensions of the window. Use the factory cut edge on one side of the window frame if possible to save you one cut.

### Step 4 – Wet the Window

Thoroughly spray your soap and water solution onto the inside surface of the window until it runs down the glass. If the window becomes dry, soak it again before applying film.

### Step 5 – Remove the Protective Liner and Place the Film on the Glass

You can remove the protective liner using your teeth to separate the film and liner at a corner. Another way to remove the liner is to attach two pieces of transparent tape to the film. One on the front and the other on the back surfaces of the film so that about 1" of tape is on the film and 3 to 4 inches of tape are hanging over the corner of the film. Press the tape together then quickly peel apart to begin separating the liner from the adhesive side of the film. Be careful not to crease the film while removing the liner.

Handle the film with wet hands to avoid leaving fingerprints on the adhesive. As you peel the liner away spray the soap and water onto the exposed adhesive. This helps reduce static cling, makes the liner separate easier and limits contamination. For small pieces of film remove the liner diagonally from one corner toward the opposing corner. Do not let the film touch itself. It can stick together and ruin the piece of film. Removing the liner from a large piece can require two people. With this method one person faces the window and holds the film up off the floor. The second faces the liner side of the film and separates a corner of the liner from the film. Spray the soap and water on the exposed corner and slide your finger along the top edge of the film to release the liner across the top. Peel the liner down toward the floor smoothly and evenly. After completely removing the liner and fully wet the adhesive side of the film. Rewet the glass and place the film on the wet window.

Handle the film carefully at the corners to avoid wrinkles or creases, which cannot be removed. Start at the top of the window allowing the film to gently lie down on the glass. Use your hands to position and smooth the film onto the glass. Be sure the window is suitably wet; better too wet than not wet enough. When the window and film are wet enough you can slide the film around to correctly position it.



#### Step 6 – Mist the Backside of the Film

Spray the entire surface of the film facing you with the soap and water solution. This will allow the squeegee to slide easily across the film's surface.



#### Step 7 – Squeegee the film to the glass without bumping the frame.

Using your installation squeegee begin forcing the water and air out from under the film. Start with one firm stroke from about the middle of the window and squeegee up stopping short of the top frame. Squeegee from top-middle to the left two or three overlapping strokes, then from the top-middle to right in the same manner stopping short of the frame. Squeegee from the center down stopping short of the bottom frame. Squeegee the rest of the film in the same manner working your way downward and leaving a 2" perimeter area. If you need to remove large air pockets, rewet the top of the film and squeegee again. If the squeegee drags, spray more soap and water solution on the film. Always wet film with the soap and water before you squeegee. This allows the squeegee to slide smoothly across the film. Remove any large bubbles by pushing them with the squeegee to the nearest film edge. Small water bubbles (less than 1/8" in diameter) should disappear when the film is fully cured.



## Step 8 – Trim Edges of Film to Finished Size

Use your knife to trim the film around the frame. Make sure the blade is sharp.

For novice installers the five-way tool makes a good guide for the knife. To use this method start in a corner with the five-way tool and knife. Pull the knife to about mid-point on the five-way then drag the five-way tool and knife together to the opposite corner pulling the knife too the end of the five-way to finish the cut. This method leaves a nice 1/16” gap between the film and frame that allows the water and air to be forced out from beneath the film. A gap between the film and frame is essential for proper installation. If the film is in contact with the frame it will not lay flat and “fingers” will develop.



## Step 9 – Mist the back of the film and squeegee bumping the window frame



After trimming, mist the entire surface of the film, squeegee it again in the same pattern as directed in Step 7. This time bump the frame. Press firmly to remove all the water that you can. Start at the top of the window, squeegee from the center to the left, then from the center to the right. Repeat this process until you reach the bottom of the window. At the bottom squeegee down across the window from a few inches above the frame and bump the frame all the way across the bottom.

If fingers (air under the film starting at an edge radiating toward the center) appear along any edge carefully push them toward the edge of the film with your five-way tool or hard card wrapped with a paper towel. Hold your tool and towel against the frame to absorb any excess solution.

## Step 10 – Wrap the Five-way tool or hard card and force out the remaining water

Wrap the five-way tool or hard card with a paper towel and pass it over the film in a similar pattern as the squeegee to force out and absorb any remaining water. Bump the edges. When you bump the edges rest the towel on the frame edge for a second or two so the paper towel can pick up any water that has been pushed out.



Step 11 – Mist the window and squeegee clean with your rubber edge squeegee

Mist the window and squeegee with the rubber-edge squeegee. Carefully dry the frame with a paper towel and your installation is complete.



**Note:**

You may notice some "cloudiness" as the film cures. Over time the film's adhesive will cure and the cloudiness will clear. Depending on weather conditions allow 30-45 days for the adhesive to fully cure to the glass. Once fully cured then you can clean and maintain the windows as usual. Soap and water with a squeegee are best for cleaning windows and film. You may use household strength cleaners. Do not use abrasives or industrial strength cleaners.