



# Application and Maintenance

## Scotchprint<sup>®</sup> Graphics for Sidewalk Signs

### General Information

This Bulletin gives instructions for the application and maintenance of Scotchprint<sup>®</sup> Graphics for Sidewalk Signs, using these materials:

- Screen printing, 50 yard rolls:
  - 3M<sup>™</sup> Scotchcal<sup>™</sup> Film 3662-10
  - 3M<sup>™</sup> Scotchcal<sup>™</sup> Overlamine 3647
- Electrostatic imaging, 50 yard rolls:
  - 3M<sup>™</sup> Scotchcal<sup>™</sup> Film 8662-10 ES
  - 3M<sup>™</sup> Scotchcal<sup>™</sup> Overlamine 3647

### For the Best Results

- Read this bulletin thoroughly before starting the application. Applying a graphic is more than just adhering the film to the substrate.
- Apply the graphic only to one of the warranted application surfaces, which includes unsealed asphalt, unsealed concrete and paving bricks.
- Be sure the surface is completely dry before applying the graphic.
- Re-brush all edges to finish the graphic application.

### Health and Safety



#### CAUTION

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Printing graphics may expose operators to chemicals.

When handling any chemical products, read and follow the manufacturers' container labels and the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for important health, safety and environmental information. To obtain MSDS sheets for 3M products go to [3M.com/MSDS](http://3M.com/MSDS), or by mail or in case of an emergency, call 1-800-364-3577 or 1-651-737-6501.

Failure to heed this caution may result in bodily harm, including allergic reaction.

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#### CAUTION

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Loose, damaged or wet sidewalk signs may cause a pedestrian to slip or trip and fall.

To reduce the risk of slipping or tripping on sidewalk signs:

- Use only 3M<sup>™</sup> Scotchcal<sup>™</sup> Matte Overlamine 3647, which has a slip-resistant surface.
- Properly apply only to unsealed outdoor surfaces (unsealed asphalt, unsealed concrete, paving bricks).
- Immediately remove or replace loose or damaged sidewalk signs. Do not attempt to repair or re-adhere.
- Upon completion of a pedestrian event on a roadway, remove the sidewalk sign before normal traffic resumes.

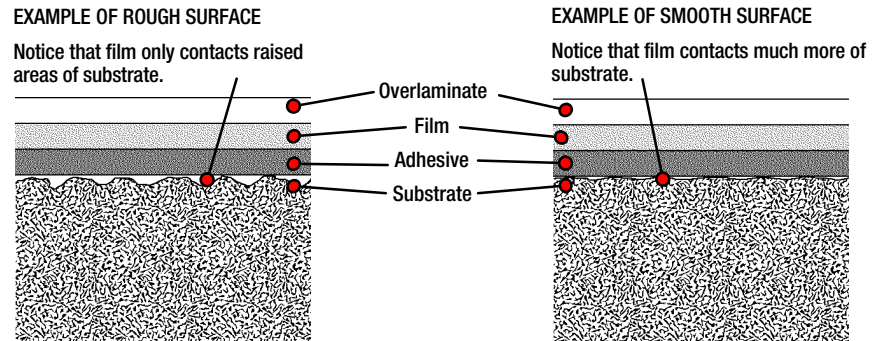
Failure to heed this Caution may result in personal injury.

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## About Textured Exterior Surfaces

Some exterior surfaces are highly dimensional and the film adhesive may not have enough contact area to adhere properly to the surface. Contact 3M Commercial Graphics Technical Service at 1-800-328-3908 if you have a question about the suitability of any surface. Also see FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 1  
Rough and Smooth Surfaces



## Condition of Surfaces

Scotchprint® Graphics for Sidewalk Signs will not adhere properly to loose, crumbling, contaminated, wet or damp surfaces. Ensure that:

- The surface is secure and in good condition.
- The surface has good internal bond.
- The surface is clean.
- The surface is completely dry.
- The surface IS NOT sealed. Sealed surfaces may result in extremely high adhesion that makes removal of the graphic difficult.
- Film must be applied at a minimum surface temperature of 70°F (21°C). Heat helps bond the adhesive; therefore, the warmer the temperature, the better the bond.

Note: Do not apply graphics late in the day when the surface temperature is likely to drop.

## Location of Sidewalk Signs

Sidewalk signs may be damaged by heavy equipment such as snow plows, shovels and power sweepers as well as by dragging heavy items across the top of the graphic. If possible, locate sidewalk signs out of the main stream flow of heavy equipment traffic. Minor edge chipping is unavoidable.

Note: Sidewalk signs are specifically NOT designed for use where there is vehicular traffic.

## Cutting

When using guillotine and die cutting equipment to cut sidewalk signs, check and carefully clean the blades frequently to remove adhesive buildup.

## Sidewalk Surface Preparation

### *Important Note!*

The adhesive on sidewalk signs cannot adhere properly to wet or damp surfaces. Therefore, never use any cleaning solvents or solutions, including detergent and water, to clean an application surface or to apply the graphic.

### **Clean Surface Where Sign Will Be Applied**

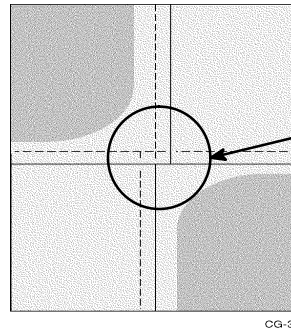
- Scrap off any grease, gum, weeds or grass found in expansion joints or other large particles from the application surface. Complete degreasing may not be possible.
- Clean the surface with a broom or a brush to remove all loose particles, dust, sand and gravel.

## Seaming

A sidewalk sign can be seamed, but it must have an overlap of at least 3/8 inch. We recommend overlapping panels in the shortest direction, when possible.

Multiple layers of film can cause bumps. Make sure there are no more than three layers of film at any intersection. To do this, stagger seams, by at least 3/4 inch. See FIGURE 2.

FIGURE 2  
How to Overlap Seams



Make sure there are no more than three layers of film at any intersection.

Stagger seams on overlapped panels

## Graphic Application

### About the Application Brush

Use a *stiff, nylon bristled brush* for applying the film. The stiff bristles help work the film's adhesive into the irregularities of the sidewalk surface.

A brush like the OXO Soft Works™ brush works well. It has 1 inch bristles in an oval base that is about 5 x 3 inches. It also has a comfortable handle. Suitable brushes are available in all housewares departments of discount and hardware stores.

### Application Procedure

Note: If possible, radius the corners of the sidewalk sign; this helps prevent premature lifting.

1. The application surface must be clean and completely dry.
2. Film must be applied at a minimum surface temperature of 70°F (21°C). Heat helps bond the adhesive; therefore, the warmer the temperature, the better the bond.
3. Do not use an application tape.
4. Position the graphic on the clean, dry surface.
  - Expansion joints can be used to align the graphic, but always position the graphic so none of its edges start or end on an expansion joint.
  - Bridge the film over grouting, seams, stone edges and expansion joints. DO NOT push the graphics into those areas.
5. Make a hinge: peel back one edge of the liner to expose the adhesive and apply that edge to the substrate. Using firm pressure and a stiff, nylon-bristled brush make one stroke across the top of the graphic.

Note: Do not smooth the graphics with your hands because this entraps air.

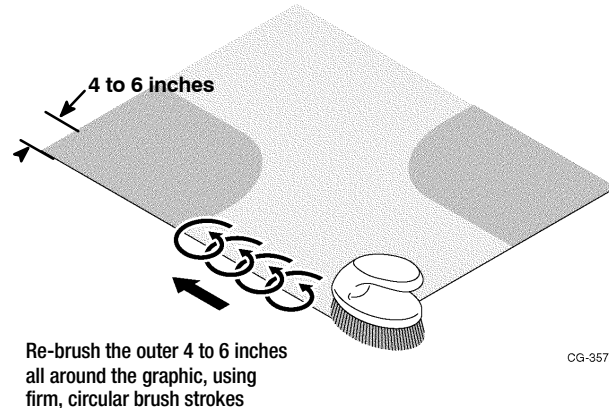
6. Lift the opposite end of the graphic from the hinge. While keeping the graphic raised up, peel back about 12 inches of liner. Working from the center out to the edges of the graphic, use the brush, firm pressure and overlapping strokes to adhere that part of the graphic to the surface. Continue in this manner until the graphic is completely applied.
7. Continue with *Finishing the Application*.

## Finishing the Application

The application is not finished until you re-brush the edges and the corners. This ensures a good edge seal.

Re-brush all the edges of the graphic, using firm, circular brush strokes. This works the adhesive into the application surface to provide better bonding. See FIGURE 3.

FIGURE 3  
Re-brushing the Edges



## Maintenance and Cleaning

- Remove or replace the entire sidewalk sign if there is any lifting from the pedestrian surface.
- Sidewalk signs should be mopped or brushed periodically for optimum skid resistance and appearance.
- The structured surface of the overlamine may pick up dirt. To clean the graphic, use a stiff, nylon-bristled brush or a light duty automatic cleaner and a cleaning agent such as Simple Green®. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use. Do not use any cleaning agent that contains solvents, which can erode the sign material.
- Never pressure wash sidewalk signs. Doing so forces water under the graphic, causing the edges to lift and curl.
- If a sidewalk sign containing an overlap has shrunk, revealing some of the adhesive, it may be cleaned by spraying the exposed adhesive with 3M™ Industrial Cleaner. Allow the cleaner to sit for one minute, and then wipe the surface with a rag or use a stiff, nylon-bristled brush to clean the surface and remove any adhesive.

## Removal

1. Remove sidewalk signs by lifting one edge and pulling it off at a sharp angle-about 135 degrees-with smooth, even tension. A scraper, such as a putty knife, may be used to lift the edge, if needed.

Some adhesive residue may remain on typical outdoor surfaces.

2. Sidewalk signs applied to a smooth, sealed surface can be difficult to remove. Usually, it is easier to remove the graphic during the coolest part of the day. It may also be helpful to cut the graphic into strips about two inches wide and then pull off each strip. Use a razor blade with a safety handle.

Note: Because the area under the graphic initially will be cleaner than the surrounding surfaces, you may notice a shadow of where the graphic was placed. This is normal.

## Warranty and Limited Remedy

The information contained and techniques described herein are believed to be reliable, but 3M makes no warranties, express or implied, including but not limited to any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. 3M shall not be liable for any loss or damages, whether direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential, in any way related to the techniques or information described herein.

## 3M Related Literature

Before starting any job, be sure you have the most current Product and Instruction Bulletins.

The information in 3M Product and Instruction Bulletins is subject to change. Current Bulletins are available at [3Mgraphics.com](http://3Mgraphics.com). The following applicable Bulletins provide information and processes you need to properly make the graphics described in this Bulletin. Additional Bulletins may be needed as indicated in the 3M Related Literature section of other 3M components you use.

Bulletin types: PB = Product Bulletin; PB-IB = Product & Instruction Bulletin; IB = Instruction Bulletin

Subject	Type	Bulletin No.
3M™ Scotchcal™ Matte Overlamine 3647	PB	3647
3M™ Scotchcal™ Graphic Film 3662-10	PB	3662
3M™ Scotchcal™ Graphic Film 8662 ES	PB	8662
Storage, handling, maintenance, removal	IB	6.5
Warranties	3M Graphics Center Warranty Brochure	<a href="http://3Mgraphics.com">go to 3Mgraphics.com &gt; Warranties</a>

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*Simple Green is a registered trademark of Sunshine Makers, Inc.; Soft Brush is a trademark of OXO.*

## Bulletin Change Summary

Updated layout and improved Caution statement on safe usage.



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