# GerberColor™ Finishing (GCF) Series Foils

- **Abrasion Guard™ SPF (Sign Protection Formula)**
- **Matte Clear finishing**


INTENDED APPLICATIONS ..... 1
PERFORMANCE LIFE ..... 1
SHELF LIFE AND STORAGE ..... 2
PRINTING ..... 2
PROTECTING GRAPHICS ..... 2
APPLICATION TECHNIQUES ..... 3
MAINTENANCE ..... 3
PHYSICAL PROPERTIES ..... 3
CHEMICAL RESISTANCE ..... 3
RELATED LITERATURE ..... 4
CONTACT INFORMATION ..... 4


## DESCRIPTION

GerberColor™ Finishing (GCF) Series Foils are durable, dimensionally stable, resin-based, pigmented foils designed for use with the GERBER EDGE®, GERBER EDGE 2®, and GERBER EDGE FX™ thermal transfer printing systems, in conjunction with EDGE READY™ materials.

The Finishing Series Foils have been developed primarily for overprint applications, which enhance the durability and/or the appearance of printed images, and consist of:

- Abrasion Guard™ SPF (GCF-214)
- Matte Finish (GCF-334)

## INTENDED APPLICATIONS

Abrasion Guard SPF (Sign Protection Formula) is specifically designed to improve the UV resistance of EDGE-printed graphics. This clear, topcoat GerberColor Foil also protects graphics from moderate abrasion from contact or handling. It has an expected performance life of 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 designed to reduce the gloss level of printed graphics or cut vinyl. Graphics and vinyl that have been overprinted with Matte Finish will have their gloss level reduced by 60%.

If extreme petrochemical contact is anticipated, refer to the Gerber Guard™ manufactured by 3M and Gerber Guard™ 9 manufactured by 3M Product Bulletins.

## PERFORMANCE LIFE

When printed on EDGE READY materials and applied vertically on stationary, non-vehicle sign applications, GerberColor Abrasion Guard SPF 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 Finish has an expected performance life of three years.

Performance statements are based upon laboratory and/or lifetime tests that we believe are reliable. Exposure angle, environmental conditions and maintenance of markings will affect ultimate performance.

Continuous exposure in regions that experience maximum sunny days will result in decreased performance.

## SHELF LIFE AND STORAGE

Printed graphics should be applied within one year. GerberColor Foils, film and printed graphics (with or without pre-mask) should be kept in a clean area free from excessive moisture and direct sunlight. Store foils at 40ºF to 90ºF (4ºC to 32ºC) and 40% to 60% humidity. When not in use, cartridges should be kept in their package sleeves. Use a paper interleaf between printed materials that are stacked or rolled. Do not store printed graphics face to face.

## PRINTING

GCF Foils are compatible with EDGE READY materials in overprint combinations with the following GerberColor Series - GerberColor Spot (GCS), GerberColor Process Pro™ CMYK (GCP), and GerberColor Transparent (GCT).

Abrasion Guard SPF will be included as the last foil in a print when the Abrasion Guard box is checked in the QuickPlot print settings screen.

- ♦ Beginning with OMEGA™ version 2.6.1, downloads to update the plot files with unique Abrasion Guard SPF settings are available from the Gerber web site (www.gspinc.com). If for some reason this download is unavailable to you then use the standard Abrasion Guard settings.

Recommended working environment is as follows:

- Operating temperature: 50ºF to 95ºF / 10ºC to 35ºC
- Recommended temperature for assured printing accuracy: 68ºF to 78ºF / 20ºC to 26ºC
- 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™ is a durable, dimensionally stable, glossy vinyl overlaminate. 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 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 overlaminate film designed for a variety of applications. This heavy-duty overlaminate 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 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 three years.

## APPLICATION TECHNIQUES

When transferring EDGE-printed graphics, Gerber standard tack application tape is required. Printed graphics should be allowed to cure for 15 minutes prior to application of transfer tape.

## 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 be avoided.

## PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

| Characteristics | GCF-214 (Abrasion Guard) | GCF-334 (Matte Finish) |
|---|---|---|
| Pigment | Resin-Based | Resin-Based |
| Coat Weight | 4 microns | 4 microns |

## CHEMICAL RESISTANCE (Printed on Gerber High Performance Series 220)

| Chemical Agent | Exposure Time | Results |
|---|---|---|
| SAE 20 Motor Oil | 24 hours | No Effect |
| 50/50 Ethylene Glycol/Water | 24 hours | No Effect |
| Dish Detergent / Water | 24 hours | No Effect |
| Water | 24 hours | No Effect |
| 10% Hydrochloric Acid | 10 minutes | No Effect |
| 10% Ammonium Hydroxide | 10 minutes | No Effect |
| Mineral Spirits | 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

For help with questions concerning Gerber products, please call your distributor or Gerber Customer Service at 1-800-222-7446 or (860) 644-1551. Visit us on the Internet at www.gspinc.com to learn more about our many other foils, materials and equipment.

EDGE, GERBER EDGE, GERBER EDGE 2, Gerber Scientific Products, GerberCal, GerberGraphics, GRAPHIX ADVANTAGE, GSP, and Images on Vinyl are Registered Trademarks of Gerber Technology.

ColorSet, EDGE Positive, EDGE READY, Gerber AutoMag, GERBER EDGE FX, Gerber FastFacts, Gerber Guard, Gerber HoloGraphix, Gerber ImageCal, Gerber ImageCast, Gerber InstaChange, Gerber OMEGA, Gerber PermaGrip, Gerber PlastiGraphix, Gerber QUANTUM, GerberStardust, Gerber StrikeGuard, Gerber Tone, Gerber UVGuard, GerberCal, GerberColor, GerberColor Spectratone, GerberGauge, GerberGlow, GerberMag, GerberMask, GerberVision, GS 15, GS15plus, GSP Plot, GSxplus, GSx, ImagePerfect, IMAGE READY, LexEdge, Matched Technology System, MTS, ODYSSEY, OMEGA, Process Pro, SpectraShade, and SpectraTint are Trademarks of Gerber Technology.

PANTONE, and other Pantone, Inc., trademarks are the property of Pantone, Inc.

3M is a trademark of 3M Company.

TEDLAR is a registered trademark of DuPont.

**©2015 Gerber Technology. All Right Reserved**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Category**: Materials | **FastFact #**: N/A | **Supplied by**: Aftermarkets | **Last Modified**: 09/04/15 |



GERBER TECHNOLOGY