



# Metallized Polyester Material

DESCRIPTION.....	1
INTENDED APPLICATIONS .....	1
APPLICATION TECHNIQUES .....	1
SUBSTRATE PREPARATION .....	1
PERFORMANCE LIFE (UNPRINTED) .....	2
CUTTING .....	2
PROTECTING GRAPHICS .....	2
SHELF LIFE AND STORAGE .....	3
MAINTENANCE .....	3
PHYSICAL PROPERTIES.....	3
CHEMICAL RESISTANCE (UNPRINTED) .....	3
RELATED LITERATURE.....	4
CONTACT INFORMATION .....	4

## DESCRIPTION

Gerber’s Metallized Polyester materials are dimensionally stable films that resist tearing, abrasion and heat. These are polyester-based, 3-mil films with a mirror look on both sides of the material for two-sided interior and limited exterior use. Two versions are available: Brushed Aluminum and Shiny Silver. Each has a one-to-two-year life.

These specific products are neither EDGE READY™ nor IMAGE READY™.

## INTENDED APPLICATIONS

Gerber’s Metallized Polyester materials are ideally suited for a wide variety of commercial and industrial applications in which durability, heat resistance and dimensional stability are required. Both materials provide a metallized look to graphics, signs, labels, nameplates, plaques, and vehicles.

These films should be applied to flat surfaces that are clean and dry.

## APPLICATION TECHNIQUES

Dry application methods should be used with Metallized Polyester and panels should be butted.

## SUBSTRATE PREPARATION

Before applying your graphic, wash the surface of your substrate with warm water and detergent. Do not use soaps or other cleaners with lotions or creams as they will leave a residue. Thoroughly rinse the surface and allow it to completely dry.

Saturate a clean paper towel with a solvent-based cleaner and wipe the substrate surface. Be certain to follow all manufacturer safety guidelines when using any solvent. Dry the surface with a lint-free paper towel before the solvent evaporates.

If applying to glass, solvent wipe the surface with a 2 to 1 mixture of water and isopropyl alcohol. Glass temperatures can vary across the surface. These temperature variations can produce stresses which may cause the glass to break. Use caution when applying to glass.

Some polycarbonate substrates may weaken when certain vinyl films are applied to them. Because of this possibility, the user will need to determine if safety items such as helmets, safety shields, and some windshields are compatible with their vinyl's adhesive.

Many paint systems (e.g. two-part urethane) and some polycarbonate substrates will outgas if they are not fully cured. Outgassing can cause permanent bubbling in most films; substrates should be tested for outgassing prior to final application.

## **PERFORMANCE LIFE (UNPRINTED)**

Brushed Aluminum and Shiny Silver metallized polyesters have an expected exterior durability of up to two years when applied vertically.

Performance statements are based upon field experience and exposure tests conducted throughout the United States. Substrate selection, exposure angle, environmental conditions, and maintenance of markings will affect actual performance. Continuous exposure in regions that experience maximum sunny days will result in decreased performance. Extreme temperature cycling over a short time may result in film cracking. This product is not recommended for horizontal applications.

## **CUTTING**

Gerber Metallized Polyesters can be cut on any 15-inch EDGE-compatible plotter. A 30° SuperSharp blade is recommended. Plotters can be set to full speed.

## **PROTECTING GRAPHICS**

Gerber Technology offers products that are designed to protect vinyl and printed graphics.

Gerber Guard™ manufactured by 3M 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 for 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 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%.

## SHELF LIFE AND STORAGE

Apply film within one year of receipt. Cut graphics should also be applied within one year. Film and cut graphics (with or without premask) should be kept in a clean area free from excessive moisture and direct sunlight. Maintain temperature at 70 °F (21 °C) and humidity at 50%.

Use a paper interleaf between layers of stacked or rolled materials.

## MAINTENANCE

To clean Metallized Polyester graphics, use a mild, non-abrasive soap with a soft cloth or sponge. Avoid using alcohol-based cleansers or soaps containing grit or abrasives.

## PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Thickness	3 mil (See Description)
Film Color	Brushed Aluminum and Shiny Silver
Adhesive	Clear permanent acrylic
Adhesive Color	Clear
Liner	90# StaFlat
Tensile Strength	N/A
Elongation	N/A
Dimensional Stability	< 0.015 inch
Minimum Application Temperature	60 °F (16 °C)
Removal Temp	N/A

## CHEMICAL RESISTANCE (UNPRINTED)

Chemical Agent	Result
Household cleaners	No effect
Mild acids	No effect
Motor oil	No effect
Water	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](http://www.gspinc.com) to learn more about our many other foils, materials and equipment.

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