

01 / THE FIRST FEW WEEKS

What to Expect and Care & Maintenance

ARCHITECTURAL WINDOW FILM INSTALLATION

Thank you for choosing Adelaide Window Tinting. Your new film needs time to settle, and temporary changes in its appearance are a normal part of this process. This guide explains what to expect and the simple care that keeps your film looking its best.

ALLOW 30 DAYS

Let the finish settle before assessing it.

NO CLEANING

Wait at least 30 days.

HANDS OFF

Leave bubbles and edges alone.

Why the film needs time to settle

We install film using a water-based solution and remove the excess with a squeegee. A small amount of moisture remains between the film and glass. This gradually dries out as the adhesive bond develops.

Haze, water pockets and a slightly uneven view

Temporary cloudiness, small water pockets and slight ripples are common while moisture dries beneath the film. They can become more noticeable in the days after installation, then gradually clear. This alone does not indicate a faulty installation. **Leave these areas alone; do not press, puncture or squeegee them.**

How long does drying take?

Please allow at least 30 days before assessing the finished appearance or raising minor cosmetic concerns. Some films clear sooner; cooler weather, shaded glass, humidity and thicker films can extend drying to **60 days or longer**. Residual moisture that is gradually clearing simply needs more time.

Using the room and windows

Keep hands, pets, furniture and blind fittings off the film. Operate windows by their handles and avoid anything rubbing the treated surface; follow any temporary restrictions we give you. Let the film dry naturally without heaters, hairdryers or extra pressure.

Fresh edge sealant: leave it untouched for the period advised at installation. A surface that feels dry may still be curing underneath; full curing time depends on the sealant, bead size and conditions.

02 / CARE & MAINTENANCE

Normal cleaning. Simple care.

After 30 days, clean your windows as usual

Use an ordinary **ammonia-free glass cleaner** and a **clean, soft microfibre cloth**. A rubber squeegee is fine too. Window film is made for everyday use and regular cleaning; no special cleaning routine is required.

The basic things to avoid

Do not use razor blades, metal scrapers, steel wool or abrasive pads and powders on the film. Keep cleaning cloths free of grit. Its scratch-resistant surface handles normal cleaning, but sharp or abrasive tools can leave marks.

Exterior films and skylights

Clean exterior film as needed to remove dirt, salt and bird droppings. Coastal or exposed windows may need more frequent cleaning. Use the same ordinary cleaning method, avoiding pressure washers. Arrange a window cleaner for elevated glass or skylights that cannot be reached safely.

Edges, sealants and attachments

A narrow border or visible sealant line may be part of the installation. Leave these intact; do not pick, trim or peel them. Avoid sticking tape, adhesive hooks, suction cups or decorations directly onto the film. Keep blind fittings and other sharp objects from rubbing against it.

Privacy changes with the light

Reflective privacy film relies on it being brighter outside than inside. With indoor lights on after dark, people may see in. Use blinds or curtains for night-time privacy. Frosted films obscure the view differently; the effect depends on the product and lighting.

Comfort and protection in daily use

Benefits depend on your film. Solar film reduces incoming solar heat; room temperature also depends on the building, shading and cooling. UV protection helps slow fading, but visible light, heat and material sensitivity still matter. Protect valuable furnishings from prolonged direct sun.

If someone else cleans your windows

Pass on this guide and let them know which side has film and when it was installed. The routine is simple: **wait 30 days, use ammonia-free glass cleaner, and avoid blades or abrasives.**

03 / UNDERSTANDING THE FINISHED APPEARANCE

Let the film settle first

During the first 30 days, the best approach is to leave the film alone and allow it to dry. Temporary moisture marks generally improve without any action. Avoid assessing the final finish while the installation is still drying.

Noticing something for the first time?

It is natural to look more closely at your windows after tinting. Existing scratches, water stains, manufacturing marks or slight waviness in the glass may then catch your eye, particularly in different lighting. Noticing a mark after installation does not necessarily mean it was caused by the installation. Film follows the existing glass and does not repair or conceal imperfections already present.

How to view the finish: after the initial drying period, look reasonably straight through the window from about 2 metres away in normal daylight. Close-up inspection, sharp angles and strong direct sun can make small details appear much more prominent.

WHAT YOU NOTICE	WHAT IT MEANS
Haze, water pockets or slight ripples	Common during drying. Leave them untouched and allow at least 30 days for the appearance to settle.
One pane clears before another	Different sunlight, shade, temperatures and film types affect drying. The panes do not need to clear at the same rate.
A narrow clear border or a join	A small clearance beside the frame is usually intentional. An agreed join may be necessary where a pane exceeds the film roll width.
Moisture still gradually clearing	Cooler or shaded installations can take 60 days or longer. If the appearance is continuing to improve, allow more drying time.

If a concern remains after 30 days

If a noticeable issue remains after 30 days and is not improving, reply to your AWT installation or invoice email with your installation date, job address and a brief description of the affected window. Leave the film undisturbed while we review it.

Keep your records: retain your invoice, film details and manufacturer warranty with this guide.

Actual glass breakage is different from a cosmetic concern. Keep clear of cracked or broken glass and arrange prompt glazing assistance; the drying period does not apply to a safety issue.

Appearance reference: 3M visual quality guidelines. Further care references are linked at the foot of pages 1-2.