



ISSUE #3

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TESLA OWNERS CLUB of RIVERSIDE COUNTY



THIS ISSUE

Official Status
Paint Protection Film
Advertising
Membership Levels

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Anne L. Cox,
Newsletter Editor

Protect your Paint

Rock chips, road grime, door dings, bug smash, and bird droppings are inevitable. Paint protection film (PPF) creates a transparent barrier to protect paint from those insults.

Before the glorious day you take delivery of your beautiful new Tesla, consider investigating PPF. Research is needed before such an important and substantial purchase.

Chosen carefully and applied professionally, aftermarket film prolongs the life of your paint, so it stays looking new much longer. That investment helps resale value, too.

Club members recently offered their insights about their experiences with PPF.

Keith L. bought PPF for his Model X from Premier Armor in Corona. Keith said, "Xpel PPF was installed in early 2017 and has held up perfectly. It protected the front of the vehicle from many rock impacts to the bumper."

He said, "Another thing I like is the ease of washing the area as I don't have to 'baby' the paint when getting the bugs off. The barrier film is protecting the paint, but you can't tell it's there!"

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Keith believes Nick Blek and his crew “are truly top-notch and Nick has taken home top spots in international PPF competitions, so you’re in good hands when they install PPF on your vehicle.”

PPF can be applied at any point, but sooner is clearly better. Even a delay of a couple of weeks allows normal wear. PPF shouldn’t be applied until existing defects and blemishes are corrected, so early application avoids the added expense of restoring the paint. Protecting fresh paint and any custom paint jobs is worth the investment.

Jason Villa said, “I have PPF on both my Teslas, and both times it saved my paint from what would have been a total paint correction. The damage the PPF took was unexpected and looked so severe, I thought the damage took some paint. But after taking it to the detail shop and seeing the PPF removed, the paint looked immaculate.”

Jason trusts Elite Finish in San Diego and said, “You can see the difference in detail they put into making sure PPF is flush with the vehicle with no bubbles.”

Quality

Basic coverage is minimal (front end of hood, bumper, lights, and mirrors), but Neil Mazer rejected that option because the seam would be visible across the middle of the hood. He opted instead for full front application (full hood, full bumper, lights, and mirrors) after a gravel truck on I-15 caused \$10,000 damage in less than five seconds.

“There are no exposed film edges, and the film is self-healing in the sun,” he said. Neil had a great experience with Clear Pro in Murrieta and is happy with the long-term results.

“One small pebble hit my hood which did put a little mark on the film, but the paint was protected. Furthermore, after several weeks, the self-healing properties went into effect and now you can’t even see where the mark was,” Neil said.

The most expensive option is to cover the entire car, but glass should never be covered because the film will cloud.

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We’ve Arrived!

Tesla Owners Club of Riverside County is now an Official Partner of the Tesla Owners Club Program. Clubs who earn this status must follow specific guidelines, perform on probation for three months, and clearly meet the high standards Tesla has for official clubs.

All clubs are independent of Tesla, but clubs which earn official status can offer merchandise discounts and other benefits to members.

If you signed up on our website, that’s just the first step to membership.

Please complete the Google form at <https://forms.gle/BpEkp-4jWV4RfErXj6> so we will have your email address and other important information.

Also, without your VIN registered with us, Tesla will not consider you a registered member of the club, and you’ll miss out on many benefits. Your VIN is never revealed to anyone else.

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Ask for the most experienced technician for your job. Reputable companies won't jeopardize their reputation with a low-quality film, but a novice installer may provide a barely adequate job. Also, see if the shop uses a standard "plotter cut" for a basic pattern that might not offer enough length around holes for lights, etc.

Exposed film edges mean dirt and wax will build up on the edges making the imperfection even more obvious, especially on light-colored vehicles.

Elect either a "bulk installation" where the film is lightly scored on the vehicle and then the excess is gently pulled off for a tailored fit, or a combination of those techniques.

Film is extremely stretchy and durable, allowing it to be artfully contoured to every curve of the car by a certified and highly trained technician.

In a professional installation, film is cut to create a margin beyond the edge. That margin hangs off until the major piece dries, and then the margin is heated and tucked to the underside for a virtually seamless installation. Film should be impossible to detect after it is committed around every edge.

Steve Lusky used Monumental Workx in San Diego for his pearl white Model 3, but after three years, he was dissatisfied with the exposed edges because they revealed trapped dirt.

Next, for his wife's new pearl white Model Y, Steve chose a better job at Adonis Paint Protection in Vista. Steve said, "The edges wrap around so they aren't visible. This time, I had Xpel and the EchelonPro ceramic coating for the whole car. I recommend Tim Coats and his technician Jason at Adonis."

Variations

Cost ranges from about \$3.50 to \$6.80 per square foot from at least eight PPF suppliers at dozens of installation shops.

On the cheaper side, some companies offer a thin film (5 ml or less), a warranty of 3-5 years, no healing from minor abrasions, and yellowing (especially on light-colored cars).

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Future Advertising

Owners in our club wanting to sell a Tesla or related accessories are invited to inquire about inexpensive or free advertising in future issues.

Brief classified ads will be free for members to place, subject to space availability.

Here is the link to fill out your classified ad:

<https://forms.gle/7fAuX7F3B6c7zDcD6>

In addition, the club invites Riverside County businesses and meeting venues to advertise in the newsletter.

Rates start at \$25 for 1/6 page, \$50 for 1/3 page, and \$75 for a half page.

Ads will appear without competition on pages 2-4, so space is limited.

Design available for an extra fee. Please call or write for more information.

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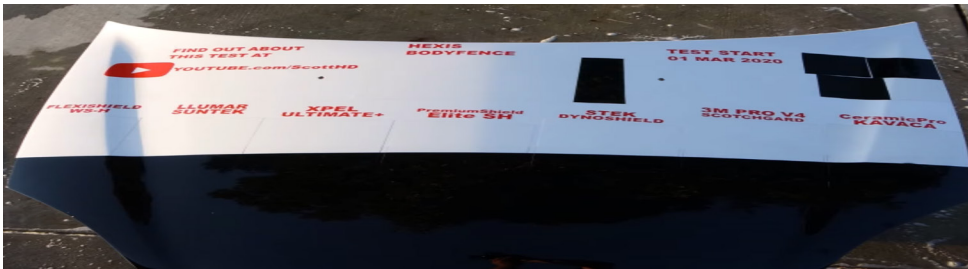
Expensive options are thick film (8 ml or more), warranties of 10-12 years, astonishing self-healing properties, less yellowing with time and sun exposure, hydrophobic topcoats, and superior adhesive strength.

In his research, Aaron Gray found “There are a lot of other companies where the material will break down or degrade faster than anticipated.” Also, “With unskilled installers, you may find areas of the wrap lifting at the edges which can create problems down the line because material responds (puffs or shrinks) with temperature changes.”

Some companies offer precut kits online for the buyer to install at home. “I tried wrapping a car myself before the Tesla, and it took me 2 weeks but turned out substandard. I will gladly pay again,” Aaron said. For his Tesla, Aaron chose 1 Day Wraps in Murrieta. “Not cheap but really good, fast work. Ask for Brian --he's the owner,” he said.

YouTube Guides

While there are many self-serving videos from companies promoting their products, it may be more helpful to view a series of monthly torture experiments over the past year by Scott HD. He uses a car hood painted half white and half black with stripes of film applied for comparison.



He tests with bug guts, spray paint, steel bristle brushes, and more while leaving the hood outside 24/7 for accelerated weather exposure. He follows up with a rating system and explains why his evaluation has merit.

While not purely scientific or entertaining, his experiments are a fast track to understanding what PPF can do and how it holds up to time and assaults.

Editor's Note: Companies included in the article were recommended by club members, and none paid for inclusion. These and other companies offer a selection of quality, cost, and services.

Tesla Owners Riverside County Membership Levels

Chill

Limited Information is provided at registration

Performance

Valid Email and VIN provided

Plaid

Performance level plus signed up in Facebook group

Tesla Club Levels

Chill

Complete three-month probationary period, 25+ Founder VINs, adherence to all program guidelines

Performance (Us!)

Official non-profit status, club site is placed on Tesla Engage

Plaid

Two years in program, good standing with local and headquarters staff, nomination by other clubs but status chosen by Tesla

To Date

172 Clubs worldwide
27 Countries
195,000 Club members