



GerberGlow™ Glow-In-The-Dark Material

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DESCRIPTION

GerberGlow is a 2.5-mil “glow-in-the-dark” vinyl designed for use with the GERBER EDGE®, GERBER EDGE 2®, and GERBER EDGE FX™ thermal transfer printing systems, in conjunction with GerberColor™ Foils.

GerberGlow will produce the brightest glow for thirty minutes following full activation. Full activation requires at least one hour of exposure to fluorescent, incandescent, black light or direct and indirect sunlight. Exposure to less than one hour of light (minimum 10 minutes) will provide varying degrees of luminance.

INTENDED APPLICATIONS

GerberGlow is ideally suited for the production of interior identification signs and symbols and novelty items. (For applications requiring professional grade luminescent markings, see Product Bulletin G3MLum for Gerber Luminous Film manufactured by 3M.) GerberGlow is recommended for interior use only.

This film is intended for use on flat or simple curved surfaces. It is not intended for applications where petrochemical contact may occur. If petrochemical exposure is anticipated, refer to the section below on protecting graphics. The user should determine the suitability of all substrates prior to actual application.

SHELF LIFE AND STORAGE

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

Use a paper interleaf between layers of stacked or rolled printed materials. Do not stack printed graphics face to face.

PRINTING

If your software material selection palette does not have GerberGlow, use HP 220 dark print settings.

Optimal printing results will be achieved if solid fills are used. Halftone patterns used with Gerber Tone™ will provide satisfactory results from 100% to approximately 30% fills. Four-color process images can be printed; however, the color will shift due to the color of the face film. Using a white primer coat (GCS-10) can help to reduce the level of color shift. Image quality in four-color process prints may be compromised.

GerberColor Finishing (GCF), GerberColor Spot (GCS), GerberColor Process Pro™ (GCP), GerberColor Transparent (GCT), and GerberColor Special Effects (GCX) Fluorescent Series Foils can be used to print onto GerberGlow.

PROTECTING GRAPHICS

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

Gerber Guard™ is a durable, dimensionally stable, glossy vinyl overlamine. 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™ manufactured by 3M 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 overlamine film designed for a variety of applications. This heavy-duty overlamine 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%.

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 up to three years.

CUTTING

GerberGlow can be cut on any 15-inch EDGE-compatible sprocketed plotter. A 30° SuperSharp blade is recommended. Plotters should be slowed to 70%.

A test cut should be performed to determine the ideal tool force setting.

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 too 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.

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.

APPLICATION TECHNIQUES

Dry application methods can be used with GerberGlow and panels should be butted.

Gerber Standard Tack Application Tape is required for all EDGE-printed graphics.

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.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Thickness	2.5 mils
Film Color	Matte light yellow green
Adhesive	PSA
Adhesive Color	White pigment
Liner	Double-sided, polycoated
Dimensional Stability (on a panel at 160° [70°C] for 24 hrs.)	.5 %
Min.Application Temperature	50°F (10°C)
Operating Temperature	-40°F to 176°F (-40° to 80°C)

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.

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