

# DipArmor

## DipArmor™ Advanced Peelable TopCoat Complete User and Application Guide (1.5 Last revised 2/6/2020)

### GENERAL SAFETY, LIABILITY AND SUITABILITY

Dip Armor is an Advanced Level TopCoat for advanced users. This product is not suitable for all users. Please only use this product if you are confident in your ability to closely read and follow instructions. If the product is misused or instructions are not followed, there can be consequences to not only the user's vehicle but the user as well. Pay close attention to the required safety and spray equipment needed to properly apply the product. Customer shall be solely responsible for making a final determination as to the suitability and compatibility of this product for Customer's intended use. DipYourCar.com takes zero responsibility or liability for the process, usage or end result of the products purchased. Please test all materials and confirm your ability to properly install before applying to a vehicle. Please wear proper safety material and use in well ventilated areas. DipYourCar.com will provide support and help as appropriate – but will supply zero refunds, replacements or financial support in the event of a failed installation. Any and all end results are the sole responsibility of the end user.

### GENERAL INFO AND EQUIPMENT

#### **Product System Components:**

- Dip Armor Satin Clear Part A
- Dip Armor Activator Part B
- Dip Armor Optimizer Part C
- Dip Armor Reducer
- Dip Armor Clear Mid-Coat for Pearls and Metallics

#### **Equipment Required for Application:**

Dip Armor can be applied via one of the following options. As with any paint or coating, higher quality sprayers will produce a better end result.

- DYC DipSprayer System
- DYC Advanced DipSprayer System
- HVLP/RP spray gun (1.4 tip)

#### **Safety Equipment Required for Application:**

- Full face respirator (Example 3M 7193 Paint Spray Respirator)
- Full body spray suit (reusable or disposable)
- Always ensure proper air flow and ventilation during the use of any sprayable paints or coatings

## BASE COAT INFORMATION

### **Base Coat Compatibilities:**

- Dip Armor can be applied over any color Plasti Dip Spray, Performance Series Plasti Dip Spray, or Matte ProLine. DipArmor is not compatible with DipPearl TopCoat or Satin ProLine.
- When using Plasti Dip Spray or Performance Series Plasti Dip, Dip Armor can be applied directly over your last color coat.
- When using Matte ProLine, DipArmor can be applied directly over your last color coat.
- When using Pearls or Metallic additives with Plasti Dip, the Pearls or Additives will be applied using Dip Armor Midcoat Clear gallons. Again, not with DipPearl TopCoat. Add, mix and spray the pearls directly into the DipArmor Midcoat just as you would with DipPearl TopCoat.
- When using Pearls or Metallic additives with ProLine, the Pearls or Additives will be applied using ProLine Matte Clear gallons.
- NEVER spray Dip Armor over PDS or ProLine unless you are certain there is a proper 8-10 wet coats of base first. Do not spray Dip Armor over a thin base.

### **Spraying Dip Armor Over Existing/Previously Applied Dip**

- Dip Armor can be applied over an existing dip job.
- If the existing dip consists of PDS, Performance Series PDS or Matte ProLine, you may continue.
- If the existing dip consists of DipPearl TopCoat or Satin ProLine, DO NOT continue. You will have to peel and start fresh with the correct products to proceed with Dip Armor.
- The existing dip must be cleaned perfectly before Dip Armor can be applied.
- Thoroughly scrub the surface of existing dip with Dip Wash soap and water. Wash the entire vehicle. Allow 24 hours to dry.
- Thoroughly clean surface of existing dip with PreDip Spray and microfiber towels.
- Thoroughly clean surface of existing dip with isopropyl alcohol and microfiber towels.
- Do not skip any of the above steps. Surface of existing dip must be perfectly clean for Dip Armor to properly adhere. No dirt, oil, debris, dust, surfactants, DipCoat, sealants etc can be present.
- **Important:** Make sure to properly and thoroughly mask the entire vehicle. Do not let Dip Armor overspray land on any OEM surfaces.
- Textured surfaces, stained surfaces, torn surfaces are not suitable surfaces to use as a base for Dip Armor. Old or compromised dip jobs should be peeled and started fresh from the base up.
- Proceed to spray Dip Armor as instructed in this Application Guide below.

\*\* Triple check all masking to ensure no Dip Armor will be making contact with OEM surfaces. When applying Dip Armor over existing dip, there will be no base coat overspray to shield the OEM surfaces from Dip Armor overspray. The masking of your vehicle is critical – it must be done correctly.

### **Base Coat Best Practices:**

- Allow 1 hour after your last base coat is dry to the touch before applying Dip Armor.
- The smoother you lay your base coats, the smoother DipArmor will lay down. Any texture in your base coats will transition to the surface texture of Dip Armor.

## MIXING DIP ARMOR ADVANCED TOPCOAT

### **DipArmor Mixing Instructions:**

- Dip Armor is a 4 part system
  - o Part A – Dip Armor Satin Clear
  - o Part B – Dip Armor Activator
  - o Part C – Dip Armor Optimizer
  - o Dip Armor Reducer
- Never use DipArmor without all 4 components

### Automated Mixing using Dip Armor Mixing Cup (Strongly Recommended):

Your Dip Armor Kit should come with 2 Dip Armor mixing cups. These cups make mixing the Dip Armor easy and hassle free. You will see 4 fill lines on the mixing cups – one for Part A, one for Part B, one for Optimizer and one for Reducer. You will simply fill each component, starting with Part A, to the designated fill line. Pour each component slowly so you can come as close to each line as possible.

Each Dip Armor mixing cup will make one Quart (32 ounces) of sprayable Dip Armor.

### Manual Mixing using Dip Armor Ratios (Only for advanced users):

- Part A and Part B are mixed by volume at a 4:1 ratio
  - o Example: 100 ounces Part A, and 25 ounces Part B = 4:1 ratio
- Part C is mixed at 20% of the combined Parts A&B
  - o Example: Part A at 100 ounces, Part B at 25 ounces = 125 ounces. 20% of 125 ounces = 25 ounces of Part C.
  - o Always round Part C up to the nearest whole number
- Dip Armor Reducer is mixed at a 15% ratio
  - o Combine Parts A, B and C; and use that total to calculate Reducer
  - o Example: Total of A, B and C is 150 ounces. 15% of 150 ounces = 23 ounces additional reducer (always round reducer up to nearest whole number)

Always mix all components thoroughly before use

Always strain mixture through cone filters as it's poured into the paint cup

\* All vehicles will differ, all spray styles will differ. There is no set guide for “how much Dip Armor” you will need per vehicle. As a rough guide, a standard sedan will use around 1 gallon of sprayable Dip Armor. Your spraying style over time will help you determine how much gloss you will need per vehicle.

TIP – While spraying your base coats (PDS or ProLine), take note of how many ounces of color you go through for each coat of base. If you normally go through “X” ounces of base product for each color coat, it's a good idea to mix up at least TWICE that amount of Dip Armor (as you will be applying 2 coats of Dip Armor at the end of your project).

Dip Armor has a pot life of about an hour, so try to mix what you will need ahead of time, and spray what you need before it begins to activate.

## SPRAYING DIP ARMOR ADVANCED TOPCOAT

Always allow 1 additional hour after your last base coat is dry to the touch. Allowing the base coats to properly flash out is important.

We always recommend applying full base coats and Dip Armor to a test panel before attempting a full vehicle for your first time. Practice can go a long way towards avoiding mistakes.

### **Spraying Dip Armor with a DYC DipSprayer or Advanced DipSprayer:**

- If gun was used for base coats, flush gun multiple times with Naphtha thinner. Disassemble and clean thoroughly.
- Dial in your gun to a spray fan approximately 6" tall
- Spray Dip Armor in thin, wet, overlapping passes
- Allow the product to wet itself out, do not over-wet the product
- Avoid heavy pooling as you spray, the product will run if you spray too heavy
- There are no flash times between coats. Spray your second coat as soon as you are done with your first.

### **Spraying Dip Armor with a HVLP/RP Sprayer:**

- 18-22 PSI is recommended, but PSI can be adjusted by preference if desired
- 1.4 tip is recommended
- Keep in mind high PSI levels can cause dry lines and uneven finishes
- Spray Dip Armor in thin, wet, overlapping passes
- Allow the product to wet itself out, do not over-wet the product
- Avoid heavy pooling as you spray, the product will run if you spray too heavy
- There are no flash times between coats. Spray your second coat as soon as you are done with your first.

### **Dip Armor Dry Times:**

- Dip Armor should be dust free/finger slick in 15-30 minutes depending on temps
- Dip Armor will start to dry quickly, but requires an overnight cycle for final sheen and finish to settle in. Surface can look cloudy and uneven for up to 12 hours after spraying.
- Do not apply a sealant to Dip Armor for 30 days
- Do not apply a ceramic coating to Dip Armor for 30 days

### **Dip Armor Best Practices and Troubleshooting:**

- First coat of Dip Armor may have pinholes, however the second coat (if applied correctly) should flow it out and level it down.
- If when dry your Dip Armor looks pixelated or has excessive small surface peel all over, chances are you sprayed the coating too dry.
- ALWAYS practice spraying the Dip Armor on test panels before applying to a vehicle for the first time.
- Dip Armor can be flow-coated if needed.
  - o Allow to dry overnight
  - o Sand surface with 1200 grit
  - o Wipe surface with Naphtha or solvent wipe
  - o Flow coat more Dip Armor on top as normal
- Fixing runs in Dip Armor requires the run to be sanded down, and a flow coat applied on that panel.
- Flush DYC Plastic Spray Guns with high % Isopropyl Alcohol after spraying Dip Armor is complete. Flush gun 2-3 times with alcohol to ensure coating is cleaned out.
- Flush HVLP/RP Spray Guns with Naked Gun Cleaner after spraying Dip Armor is complete.

## DIP ARMOR CLEANING AND AFTERCARE

### **Washing, Waxing, Detailing, Sealing**

- **Dip Armor must breathe** for 30 days. Do not seal or ceramic coat the vehicle for 30 days
- Allow Dip Armor to dry for 24 hours before washing
- After 24 hours, wash Dip Armor with a wax-free and sealant-free car wash soap. DYC's Dip Wash works perfectly.
- Quick Detailers can be used, however make sure the products do not contain waxes or sealants.
- DYC's DipCoat Protective Spray works wonderfully on Dip Armor
- At this time please refer to DYC Customer Service before applying any Ceramic Coatings, simply to confirm which Ceramic Coatings are confirmed to be safe for Dip Armor.
- Applying Ceramic Coatings can affect the overall sheen of Dip Armor's finish
- Use DYC's Bug and Stain Delete to remove any bugs, tree sap, grime, tar or any other random stains from Dip Armor's surface.
- Makes sure all cleaning products are alcohol free.

### **Surface Care/Things to Avoid**

- Dip Armor is fuel resistant. If gasoline is spilled on the surface, generously flush surface area with water. Gently clean area with soap and water. Allow surface to dry.
- Dip Armor and isopropyl alcohol are not compatible. Do not use alcohol to clean Dip Armor, do not use any chemicals or cleaners that contain alcohol on Dip Armor.
- Dip Armor is incredibly stain resistant, but just like OEM Paint – not stain proof. If bird poop, tar, oil, etc is found on the surface – clean as soon as possible. Long term exposure can lead to surface defects.
- Dip Armor is extremely durable, but still a removable coating – it is not bulletproof. Pressure washers can be used, but utilize common sense. Use a wide pattern tip and stay 4+ inches away from the surface. Impacts large enough or hard enough may break through the coating or topcoat.

## DIP ARMOR PEELING AND REMOVAL

### **Dip Armor was designed to be peeled in a specific way. Do not peel Dip Armor without following the instructions below**

- Dip Armor **should be warm to the touch** before peeling begins.
  - o Allow the vehicle to sit in direct sunlight for 2-3 hours before peeling
  - o If sun isn't available, use heat gun to carefully bring gloss up to 100F before peeling
  - o Dip Armor was designed to become more flexible with heat – do not peel Dip Armor while it is cold to the touch.
- Always split panels down the center and peel towards the edges. Peeling towards the edges will minimize any leftover scraps or pieces.
- Dip Armor is not as soft and flexible as the base underneath. Some splitting, delamination and flaking is normal. Again – it's critical that the surface of the coating is warm to the touch before peeling.

## GENERAL TROUBLESHOOTING AND ISSUES

**Dip Armor is an Advanced product for Advanced users. This product is not suitable for everyone, and if the product is not used correctly, issues can occur. Understand you are using this product at your own risk, and are solely responsible for the end result.**

- Dip Armor overspray on OEM surfaces
  - o Your vehicle should be properly masked before spraying. If properly masked, all OEM surfaces should be protected.
  - o If a mistake is made and Dip Armor overspray makes contact with an OEM surface, it must be addressed while the Dip Armor is still curing (about a 2 hour window depending on temps).
  - o Saturate the area in high % isopropyl alcohol for 20-30 seconds, and buff using pressure with microfiber towel. Repeat if necessary. If the Dip Armor is still curing, this should remove any overspray without issue.
  
- Runs in your Dip Armor
  - o If sprayed properly, you should not experience any runs in the coating.
  - o If a mistake is made and a run is experienced, the best way to fix the run is to let the Dip Armor full cure overnight. Sand down the run flat, scuff the entire panel with 1000 grit, wipe with Naphtha, and spray a flow coat on top.
  
- Base sprayed too thin, causing issues peeling
  - o Dip Armor should never be used unless there is a solid base of PDS or ProLine first applied to the vehicle. 8-10 wet coats of PDS and 8-10 wet coats of ProLine are the minimum requirements as a proper base for Dip Armor. Never spray Dip Armor unless you are 100% certain there is a properly thick base on the vehicle.
  - o If mistakes are made and you're finding a thin film that's difficult to peel, spray high % isopropyl alcohol on and behind the film as you peel it. The alcohol will soften the Dip Armor and help the film release from the vehicle surface.
  
- TopCoat flaking while peeling
  - o As instructed clearly above, Dip Armor was designed to become soft and pliable with heat. Dip Armor should never be removed cold to the touch.
  - o Leave the vehicle outdoors in direct sunlight until the surface is warm to the touch, then peel while warm.
  - o If sunlight is not available, warm the surface (one panel at a time) with a heat gun until it reaches approximately 100F. The film will become softer and will be easy to remove.

### **Important Contact Info:**

Technical Support: 855-847-5825  
DipYourCar Customer Service  
www.DipYourCar.com