

Why Should the Film Industry use Baby Shampoo for Installs?

When tinting windows a slippery solution between the glass and the film is the foundation of a successful install. While many household soaps seem similar, their chemical interactions with window film adhesives differ significantly. Read on to understand what to avoid.

Original Formula Johnson & Johnson Baby Shampoo and distilled water have always been the Industry Standard of a successful install. Distilled water is almost always cleaner than tap water.

Original Baby Shampoo strikes a perfect balance between lubrication and adhesion.

- **pH Neutrality & Adhesion:** Unlike acidic or basic detergents, baby shampoo is pH-neutral. This neutrality ensures that the adhesive bond forms correctly without being "eaten away" by harsh chemicals over time. (hey, this is a product made for use on children)
- **Amphoteric Detergents:** These specialized surfactants provide the necessary "slip" to glide the film into place but lack the aggressive stripping power found in standard dish soaps.
- **Zero Residue Clarity:** Because it is designed to rinse clean from hair and skin, it leaves no film behind on the glass, preventing the "milky haze" or rainbow streaks seen with other soaps.

The Dangers of Dish Soap (Like Dawn Blue or Dawn Green)

- **Adhesive Breakdown:** The powerful degreasers in dish soap can slowly dissolve the adhesive layer, leading to premature peeling, bubbling, and "fingers" appearing at the edges.
- **Hazing and Residue:** Dish soaps often contain conditioning agents or perfumes that can leave a microscopic residue, affecting the long-term clarity of the tint.
- **Drying Too Fast:** Dish soap solutions can dry faster than shampoo, which may cause the film to "tack" too early, making it difficult to squeegee out air bubbles.

Warning: Avoid Shampoos "New Recipe" Formulas (Aloe & Vitamins)

- **Aloe and Vitamins:** These ingredients act as contaminants in a window film install. Aloe contains polysaccharides that leave a moisturizing layer, acting as a barrier that prevents the glue from biting into the glass.
- **Optical Issues:** Additives like Vitamin E can lead to "rainbowing" or a cloudy appearance once the film cures.
- **Premature Tacking:** Installers report that these new formulas cause the film to drag and stick before it is properly aligned.

Recommended Alternatives

- **Professional Solutions:** Industry Products like Tint Slime are chemically engineered specifically for window film and inhibit algae growth in spray bottles.
- **Generic "Gold" Shampoo:** Store brands (like Equate or Dollar General) often still use the older, simpler chemistry that has been phased out by name brands.
- **Free & Clear Soaps:** Soaps without dyes or fragrances are less likely to cause skin irritation for the installer or chemical reactions with the film.