



# 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads

## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. Who do I contact for help with custom 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads applications?  
A. For custom sizes and shapes, call 3M Converter Markets at 1-800-328-1681.
- Q. What can I do to make sure I apply the 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads products correctly?  
A. There are four important areas to always remember when applying these products:
1. Make sure the substrate surface is clean, dry and smooth.
  2. Minimum application temperature (of the substrate) in order to successfully bond the pressure sensitive adhesive in 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads:
    - Medium Resilient 40°F (4°C)
    - General Purpose 40°F (4°C)
    - Conformable 40°F (4°C)
    - Fine Resilient 50°F (10°C)
    - Coarse 40°F (4°C)
  3. After removing the liner from the pressure sensitive adhesive side of the tape or tread, minimize 'touching' the adhesive surface during application so that oils and soil from the hands do not contaminate the adhesive prior to bonding.
  4. Finally, make sure all the surface of the 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads product is 'pressed or rolled firmly' during applications to provide optimum contact and bonding.
- Q. How do I remove 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads products if I want to change or replace a damaged piece?  
A. 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads products are not easily removed once bonded. The adhesives used are durable and strong. Suggested removal procedure:
1. Using a putty knife or similar tool, insert under the edge of the tape or tread, and pry upwards to lift edge. Continue around all edges of the tape or tread. Use a pliers or similar tool to grasp the open edge and pull (at a 180 degree angle) back over the tape or tread.
  2. Use 3M™ General Purpose Adhesive Remover (08987) to soften any adhesive which may remain on the substrate. Clean residue off, rinse, dry and reapply new 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tape or Tread
- Q. If I need more specific product information on each 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads product, where do I look for it?  
A. The 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads Technical Data Sheet dated July 2011 provides in-depth information on products, directions for users, product selection, surface preparation, typical properties and chemical resistance.
- Q. How do I apply 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads to concrete?  
A. If the concrete is painted, the surface should be clean, dry, warm (40° F) and smooth. If the surface is not smooth, the 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Primer can be applied to smooth out rough surfaces.
- If the concrete is bare and porous, then a concrete sealer or paint should be applied to prevent moisture build up in the concrete. Moisture build up will force the adhesive to release. In an outdoor application or an application with exposure to moisture, 3M recommends using the 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Edge Sealing Compound by running a bead around the outer edge of the tape or tread.

- Q. Can I get 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads with special adhesives designed for application on Powder Coatings?
- A. Yes, two special adhesive types (PC-1 and PC-2) are available on the 600, 500 and 300 series products for application on powder coatings. Trial kits are available from 3M Technical Support Service, 1-800-626-8578.
- Q. Will 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads product bond to polyurethane?
- A. Polyurethane has a low surface energy so bonding will be more difficult. With high temperatures, the bond will be weaker. Bonding would be similar to a powder coated surface. Suggest testing the PC1- and PC-2 kit.
- Q. How to remove 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads from a powder coated steel bumper?
- A. To remove 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads from hard surfaces such as this, try to pull up one corner. Use a plastic putty knife and hair dryer to heat if necessary. Pull at a 180 degree angle. If any adhesive remains, it can be rolled up with fingers or removed with 3M™ General Purpose Adhesive Remover.
- Q. What is the best way to remove 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Primer and Edge Sealing Compound?
- A. The 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Edge Sealing Compound is a semi flexible material which is cured acrylic and can be scraped off, then the residue can be softened with 3M™ General Purpose Adhesive Remover (08987).  
The 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Primer can be softened first with 3M™ General Purpose Adhesive Remover (08987) or with a solvent paint remover and then scraped with a razor or utility knife.
- Q. What is the dry time for 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Edge Sealing Compound?
- A. When using 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Edge Sealing Compound, the tapes or treads can be walked on within 30 to 60 minutes after application and will reach a full cure in 24 hours.  
The Safety-Walk™ Edge Sealing Compound is flexible acrylic and will never get rock hard. It is designed to prevent moisture from penetrating under the tape or tread. To tell if the adhesive is cured, press the adhesive with a finger. If the adhesive does not transfer to the finger, the product is cured and will remain at that consistency.
- Q. Can 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads be painted?
- A. Yes, but why? First, you would be creating another maintenance operation to take care of. Secondly and most importantly, you would be covering up the safety portion of the tape or tread - the roughness safety coating. If you need a special color to be visible, the 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Fine Resilient Tapes and Treads 220 in Clear or 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant General Purpose Tapes and Treads 620 in Clear is recommended to allow a painted color to show through. Other color options include: Black, Gray or Safety-Yellow depending upon the application specifics.
- Q. What is 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Edge Sealing Compound and how is it used?
- A. 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Edge Sealing Compound is a liquid, solvent-based sealer in a tube applicator. The product seals the exposed edges of 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads, providing extra protection from excessive moisture or liquids. The compound is sold in a 5-ounce tube and one 5-ounce tube seals approximately 75 to 100 lineal feet. Make sure the sealer bead covers both the edge of the tread and the floor. It typically dries in 30 minutes.

- Q. What are the 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads surface preparation instructions?
- A1. For non-porous surfaces:
1. Make sure the surface is clean, dry, and smooth and above minimum application temperature when applying 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads. Repair or replace any broken or damaged surface.
  2. Remove chipped, cracked or peeled paint prior to applying 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads.
  3. Remove loose residue from surface.
  4. Floor finish should be removed from floor prior to application otherwise the tape or tread bond will only be as strong as the bond between the floor finish and the floor surface.
  5. Referring to the SURFACE PREPARATION TABLE, use appropriate cleaner or solvent wipe to clean surface. After cleaning, allow to dry thoroughly.
- A2. For applications on porous surfaces or to access the surface preparation table, refer to the Technical Data Sheet dated July 2011 with detailed application instructions.
- Q. Will 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads products adhere to Marine substrates that will be submerged under water for extended periods?
- A. No. Per Tech Service, the adhesive cannot withstand constant immersion under water.
- Q. How do I obtain a Certificate of Conformance for Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads?
- A. Certificate of Conformance requests for Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant products must be submitted by the customer when an order is placed with their customer service representative.
- Q. How do I find a lot number on 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads products?
- A. Lot numbers are located on the front of the product case. It is not listed on the product, but only on the case. The lot number should start with 3-4 letters and be followed by numbers. Usually a total of 8 digits. The manufacturing location only can determine the manufacture date from the lot number.
- Q. Does humidity affect 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads?
- A. 3M has not tested to determine if humidity will affect the bond of 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads. We have not had any reports or complaints of the product failing because of humidity. The application is most important and the surface needs to be very clean and very dry.
- Q. What type of mineral is on 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads products referred to as 500, 600 and 700 series?
- A. The mineral used in these products is considered proprietary information.
- Q. What type of adhesive is on 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads products?
- A. The standard adhesive on the 300, 500, 600, and 700 series products is a synthetic rubber block copolymer. PC-1 and PC-2 adhesives are considered proprietary information.

- Q. Can 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads Products be used on oil rigs?
- A. 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant General Purpose Tapes and Treads 610 can be used on oil rigs. Please note the following: An extremely clean surface is necessary when making application. The temperature of the materials, substrate and air must be 50 degrees and above. Help extend the life of the product by using 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Edge Sealing Compound on outer edges of treads and strips. 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant General Purpose Tapes and Treads 610 works well with crude and motor oils; however, prolonged exposure to diesel fuel and gasoline type products may affect how well the product works. An alternative product would be 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Coarse Tread 710.

**Important Notice to Purchaser**

**Product Use:** Many factors beyond 3M's control and uniquely within user's knowledge and control can affect the performance and useful life of 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads products, including the type and preparation of the surface, and the conditions of use. User is solely responsible for evaluating the product and determining whether it is fit for user's particular purpose and adequately maintained.

**Warranty, Limited Remedy, and Disclaimer:** 3M warrants that its 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads products will be free from defects in material and manufacture at the time of purchase from 3M's authorized distributor. 3M MAKES NO OTHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. If a 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads product does not conform to this warranty, the sole and exclusive remedy is, at 3M's option, replacement of the 3M product or refund of the purchase price.

**Limitation of Liability:** Except where prohibited by law, 3M will not be liable for any loss or damage arising from its 3M™ Safety-Walk™ Slip-Resistant Tapes and Treads products, whether direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential, regardless of the legal theory asserted.



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