

Case Study

The Things We Make, Make Us.
Pregis PolyMask Provides over \$100k
in Savings for Automotive Client



Temporary protective film provides the end-user savings
in material, cost, and labor efficiency.

The Challenge

In February of 2020, complaints started coming in from an automotive facility where final component assembly takes place. A serious quality issue occurred when the temporary protective film the supplier was using overlapped the mounting holes on the fender. The film was getting stuck in between the fender and body of the vehicle when the parts were mounted, creating a quality alert. The automotive supplier needed a film that was a better size for the part to improve throughput and ensure product quality.

The Journey

Pregis and the local distributor visited the supplier to see firsthand what was happening. Pregis found that the supplier's current film provider had not visited them or made any changes to the film size despite numerous updates to the fender design over time. The result was that the production employees in this facility were forced to use overlapping pieces of film to cover the fenders. Pregis and the distributor consulted with the team. They provided a "right-sized" film for the fenders, resulting in cost reduction for the facility, time and labor savings, process efficiency improvement, and material cost savings.

The Bump in the Road

One significant challenge was that Pregis was not an approved vendor to provide temporary protective films to this OEM, and the fender supplier could only use OEM-approved films. The Pregis automotive team had to track down the correct contact at the OEM to get the DVP&R testing protocol (Design Verification Plan & Report). The DVP&R protocol is the process of planning, testing, and reporting to verify an automotive part or component meets a specific set of performance and reliability requirements as defined by engineers during the design phase. The DVP&R protocol allows Pregis products to be tested under the OEM criteria and to gain approval for inclusion in the OEM specification. The testing process was long, and the pandemic didn't help. Still, the lab performed the required testing, and the film was quickly approved.

The Competitive Edge

The team at the supplier found that Pregis had a product that passed all testing protocols and that the competitive product they had used for years failed to meet the criteria outlined by the DVP&R protocol. The incumbent product produced staining on the test surfaces after the accelerated weathering test and also did not meet the specifications for adhesion peel force required for removal. Pregis formulated, tested, and validated a custom protective film that exceeded all requirements with these findings.

Design Verification Plan & Report



Formulated



Tested



Validated

Pregis exceeded all requirements



The Conclusion

While the testing protocol is a complex process, the resulting approval and the new temporary protective film provided the end-user savings in material, cost, and **labor efficiency that exceeded \$100,000 annually**. The film reduced the customers' material usage **from 8.33 square feet to 4.3125 square feet** per part – that is nearly half the material. This resulted in a reduction in material waste, thus **eliminating landfill waste** and **increasing labor efficiency**; now, the workers require less time to apply the film with fewer perforated sections, resulting in a 20% reduction in time to cover the parts. The Pregis team's knowledge of the automotive industry helped design, validate, and test this solution quickly, and Pregis's manufacturing flexibility led to a happy customer. Pregis was flexible and reacted quickly to all customer requests, such as adding perforation on the roll to tear easier. Pregis listens to our customers' comments and acts quickly upon their feedback, leading to satisfied customers, cost, labor, process optimization, and long-term partnership and collaboration.

Overall, the customer gained a product that met DVP&R testing, did not produce staining or adhesive transfer during harsh weather conditions, and saved the company labor time and money while improving processes.

Act now!
Contact us for a free film analysis.



Reduce
warehouse space



Eliminate
landfill waste



Increase
labor efficiency