

Due to the fact that the unprotected leading-edge will handle most minor impacts with little or no need for repair, the protective tape is not installed at the factory. However, it is included should you wish to apply it.

The 3M Stoneguard® protective leading-edge strips have been provided for those customers whose applications may require additional protection. If propeller operating conditions include possible rain/water, sand/fine soil, tall grass/plants, etc, the protective tape will reduce propeller abrasion. The leading-edge strips go on smoothly but the aerodynamic disturbances they create may effect cruise and/or top-speed performance. This performance change may be more noticeable on higher speed aircraft.

The most durable leading-edge option is the Inlaid Nickel Leading-Edge. The Inlaid Nickel-Leading Edge protection is guaranteed against water damage for as long as you own the propeller. The nickel is completely embedded in the propeller blade profile so there is no decrease in performance. The nickel leading-edge is required for all amphibious aircraft, any aircraft flying in rain, and all airboats.

Frequently the application for a propeller will change. For example, a customer buys a propeller without the nickel leading-edge protection and uses it on an aircraft strictly on wheels. At some point the customer switches to floats or finds him/herself flying longer cross-country flights and flying in rain more frequently. The Inlaid Nickel Leading-Edge can be applied at any time.

For some applications such as airboats or amphibious aircraft it may be advantageous to use the nickel leading-edge AND the protective tape. The 3M Stoneguard® protective tape comes in 12" strips, we recommend cutting a strip in half and putting the 6" pieces inboard of the nickel leading-edge. Save the other 6" piece so that you can replace the first piece if it becomes worn. There is no reason to put the protective tape over the nickel.

If you have any questions on the use or installation of the 3M Stoneguard® protective tape please contact us using the phone number at the bottom of this page or e-mail us at [contact@warpdriveinc.com](mailto:contact@warpdriveinc.com)

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## Installing 3M Stoneguard® Protective Tape

### Needed Equipment:

- Rags
- Denatured/Isopropyl Alcohol

### Included Equipment:

- 3M Stoneguard® Protective Tape
- Roller

1. Clean the leading-edge of the propeller blade with a rag and denatured/isopropyl alcohol. Prevent touching the area after it has been cleaned.
2. Remove the paper backing from the 3M Stoneguard Protective Tape.
3. Carefully position the tape on the flat side of the blade, starting about 1/16" from the tip and about 1/2" (half of the tape width) back from the leading-edge.
4. With the roller, slowly press down and smooth the tape onto the flat side of the blade moving from the leading-edge to the trailing-edge. Avoid wrinkles and air bubbles under the tape.
5. Roll the tape over the leading-edge onto the curved side of the blade, again, moving from the leading-edge to the trailing-edge.

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## Replacing 3M Stoneguard® Protective Tape

1. Lift a corner of the tape. It may be necessary to use a razor blade or similar tool to do this.
2. Remove the tape and all adhesive that has been left behind. Denatured/isopropyl alcohol will help.
3. Repair any damage. See repair instructions for more details.
4. If repainting is required, the blades must stay balanced. Use Flat Black Lacquer type paint. A spray can works fine.
5. Install a new piece of 3M Stoneguard Protective Tape.