



## Previous Issues

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Tech Tips

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## TECHNIQUE

The common complaint about installing bed liners is that it takes too long. It should take an experienced, motivated man 2 hours to completely install a Scorpion Bed Liner assuming it's a standard application on a 6 foot pickup (2 large batches) using a red cup brush and 8001 primer.

It's never the mix/spray time that causes an application to take 4 hours or more. Our in the field investigations of slow applicators have occasionally uncovered area set up problems such as wasting time finding tape and not using proper tools such as air wrenches to remove hardware. The most common problems arise in:

1. Putting on protection
2. Prepping the metal

Let's examine these issues.

### Putting on Protection

Always use good automotive grade masking tapes. Using wire tape such as "Wire Trim" is unnecessarily expensive and takes too long to install. Use  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch and 2 inch tape only. The  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch tape works great for tight areas and primary lines. Tape to these lines using 2 inch tape. Use the right size paper or plastic. Try to make as few cuts as possible. An inexpensive paper dispenser available from a body shop supply outlet can really speed things up. A box knife (retractable) with a good blade is a necessity as well as a stand to place the tailgate on at the right height. You should be able to totally protect a truck in 45 minutes. Very experienced applicators do this in 20 minutes.

### Prepping the Metal and Priming

To do this phase in 30 minutes, you need an air grinder or polisher with a red nylon cup brush. The key to this tool is to be thorough but never grind to bare metal. Just scratch the clear coat. Cup brushes are available from Scorpion for \$35. They will usually last for 15 trucks and they will dramatically reduce scratching time and expense. The air grinders cost \$95 and seem to last forever if kept lubricated.

# TechTips



Pictures of these items are available on the website. Scratch along tape lines by hand using 36 grit sandpaper. Always blow out the dust – all of it. Next wipe the bed with Prime Bond Cleaner. Use rags you can throw away. Don't move the dust around – turn the towel and throw them away when they get dirty. There is no need to wait after wiping out the bed. Use either the hand mister or an HVLP gun with a .015 nozzle or smaller to apply 6 ounces of 8001 Primer. DO NOT over apply. The primer will tack off while you are getting ready to spray. It does not need to dry completely.

A 2 hour application should break down this way:

<b>Apply Protection</b>	<b>45</b> Minutes
<b>Prep the Bed</b>	<b>30</b> Minutes
<b>Mix and Spray</b>	<b>30</b> Minutes
<b>Remove Plastic etc.</b>	<b>15</b> Minutes
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b> Minutes

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