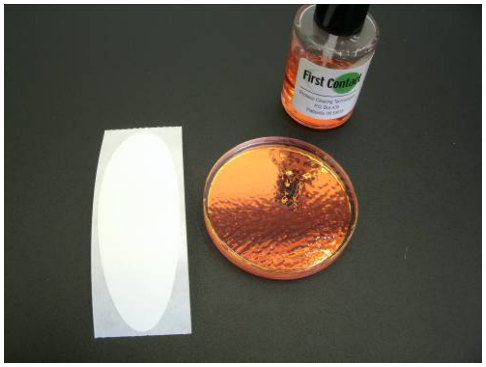
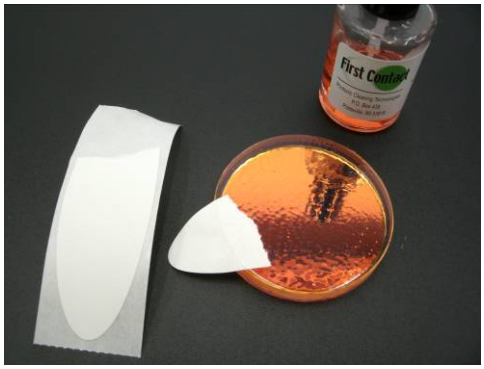
First Contact™ Dried Polymer Film Lifting Techniques

There are many techniques customers have found to lift the dried polymer film, some are illustrated below. Please refer to the applications instructions before using your First Contact™ polymer, these tips and pictures are supplemental. Always test on a non-critical surface first! Always start peeling slowly from an edge. If the film tears or doesn't come off in one piece it is simply too thin; reapply another coat of polymer liquid and let dry. Peel tabs, mesh and floss are available on our website!

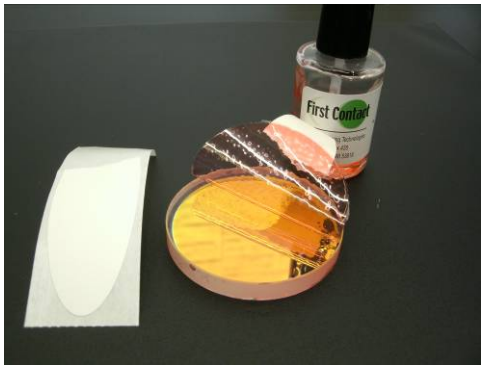
Peel Tabs



1. Apply the polymer and let dry. The polymer will stretch and not peel correctly if not fully cured.

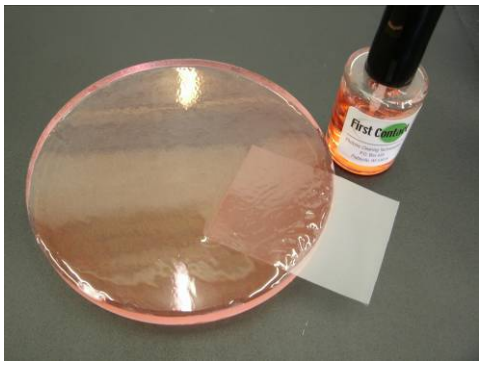


2. Apply the tab to an edge and press down firmly. You can use a piece of a peel tab as in the photo.



3. Carefully lift the edge of the film with the tab, once the polymer starts to lift it will peel very easy.

Polypropylene or Polyetheretherketone (PEEK) Mesh

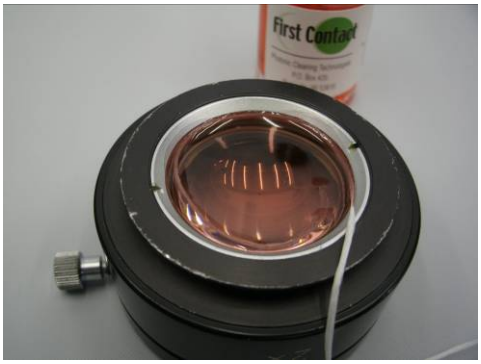


1. Apply polymer, allow to dry a few minutes, place mesh down and add a few drops of polymer over mesh to "glue" down. Do not put mesh directly on optic then apply polymer, it can leave a mesh imprint on the optic when the dried polymer is removed.

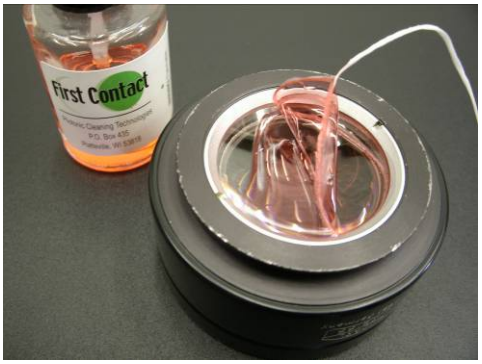
2. Allow to dry until there is no solvent smell, then carefully pull the mesh, once it starts to lift it will peel very easily.

Unwaxed Dental Floss

1. An example of an optic recessed in a mount. Floss is used to create a "handle" to remove dried polymer.



2. Apply polymer, allow to dry a few minutes, place floss down and add a few drops of polymer to "glue" down. Do not put floss directly on optic then apply polymer, it can leave an imprint when removed.



3. Allow to dry until there is no solvent smell, then carefully pull the exposed end of floss, once the polymer starts to lift it will easily peel out of the cavity.

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SOME HINTS, TIPS and SPRAYING

Please Note: First Contact is NOT paint and will not spray like paint, and it is not designed to make a "smooth coat" like on a car. Dried First Contact Polymer will have an orange peel texture.

Some common issues:

1. **If the film tears or doesn't come off in one piece, it is simply too thin.**
2. **If the film is too thin, it can be hard to start peeling.**
3. **Always start peeling from an edge and start slowly. One you get release on any edge, the film comes off easily. If it really won't start peeling it is possible to use a needle or razor on a thick film to "start" an edge of polymer then lift with the adhesive peel tabs. One can put a thick drop on an edge to provide a location to do this forced start if you want (but it is almost always unnecessary!).**
4. **The liquid First Contact dissolves the dried film so if there are any troubles, just put more liquid on and let it dry-then peel.**
5. **As thick a layer of liquid as possible without running should be on the surface to allow the polymer and solvents to "work on" the contaminant particles.**
6. **The resulting film may have an orange peel texture and inconsistent texture. That is fine –it's smooth underneath on the surface. As long as the dried polymer film has the mechanical strength to peel without tearing you have put enough on.**
7. **The sprayers for First Contact Polymer liquid are simply a mechanism to deliver liquid to the surface without touching the surface. A "good paint job" is unnecessary and not desired.**
8. **For spray application, using multiple thin coats may be necessary as the spray polymer is very fluid and can easily run off surfaces unless they are horizontal. Thin coats may not allow the polymer to stay liquid long enough to dissolve very heavy contamination and spot cleaning may be necessary. As thick a coating as possible is needed, limited by the polymer running off the edge or dripping unless the drips are controlled.**
9. **Starting an edge of dried polymer can be with an adhesive tab/tape or an embedded "handle" like a mesh, string, paper, needle or whatever. This "handle" like the mesh or string should not directly touch the optic surface, but be placed on semidried polymer and then "glued down" with more liquid and allowed to dry.**