The Peelclear Way - Shop Setup Guide

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What to get: shopping checklist

Setup to run Peelclear jobs. The Peelclear Way.

Booth and drying

- [ ] Heated paint booth (crossdraft minimum) that holds 72°F and bakes to 140°F
- [ ] 2 air blower on stands or equiped drying system.
- [ ] Short-wave IR curing lamps or full bake system (recommended)
- [ ] Booth thermometer, infrared thermometer

Compressed air

- [ ] Compressor: 5–7.5 HP two-stage piston or screw, 80+ gal tank, ~25–30 CFM @ 100 PSI
- [ ] Refrigerated air dryer
- [ ] Hard-piped air lines with drops and drains
- [ ] 3-stage filtration at the booth (water &oil separator, particulate, coalescing)
- [ ] Non-silicone paint hose, regulator or digital gauge at the gun

Spray guns

- [ ] Base coat gun, waterborne-compatible, 1.4 tip Walcom 360 recommended(also used for Surface Primer)
- [ ] Top coat gun, 1.3 - 1.4 tip Satajet or Walcom(gloss and matte)
- [ ] Disposable cup system (800 ml or largest), strainers, gun rebuild kits

Wash and prep

- [ ] Pressure washer, foam cannon, unscented Dawn
- [ ] Clay bar + lube, microfiber towels
- [ ] DA polisher, foam medium cut pads, medium compound
- [ ] 99% IPA + DI water (50/50 prep spray), spray bottles
- [ ] Inspection light, paint thickness gauge

Masking

- [ ] Masking tape (multiple widths), fine-line tape, tube tape (standard + large)

- [ ] Masking paper (6–18 in) and plastic film with dispensers
- [ ] Utility knives and blades.

Mixing

- [ ] Digital scale (0.1 g), graduated mixing cups, paint sticks
- [ ] Small slow-speed mixer helpful not needed, DI water, temperature-safe storage.

Finishing, disassembly, & reassembly

- [ ] DA sander, & polisher P600–P3000 wet abrasives, de-nibbing tool
- [ ] Polisher, wool + foam pads, compound and polish
- [ ] 1/2 in edge vinyl or pin stripe Peelclear, Peelclear Overspray Remover
- [ ] Trim tools, sockets, door and panel stands, parts bins

Safety

- [ ] Air respirator, or fresh air mask.
- [ ] Paint suits, nitrile gloves, safety glasses, fire extinguishers

Peelclear products

- [ ] Certification kit (US, CA or rest-of-world)
- [ ] Surface Primer 2.0, Gen 2.0 Base Coat, Gen 2.0 Slow Reducer
- [ ] Dip N′ Dyes primer colors and colors, pearls as needed
- [ ] Top Coat (gloss/matte), Activator, Top Coat Reducer (medium + slow)

Overview

A Peelclear installer needs a real refinish setup: a heated booth, clean dry air, dedicated guns per material, and a station for every step of the Gen 2.0 process. Peelclear is paint, not vinyl or PPF, so the shop is built like a body shop with extra care for waterborne drying and clean release.

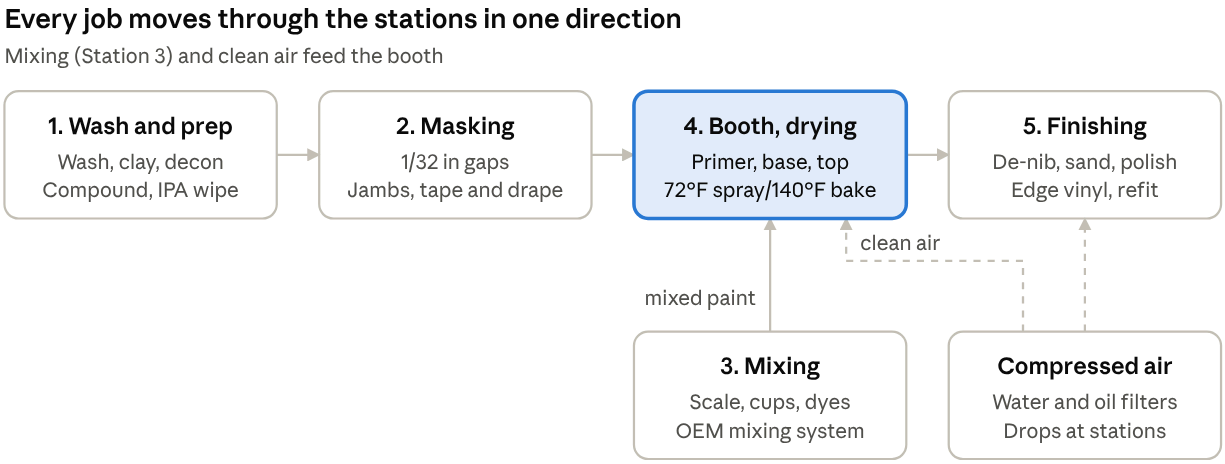
The path to becoming a certified installer:

1. Set up the shop to the minimum standard in this guide.
2. Buy the Peelclear certification kit (US, CA or rest-of-world version).
3. Complete Peelclear training on the Gen 2.0 manual and quick start.
4. Complete a certification job and send photos of each stage for Peelclear review.
5. Get approved and listed as an authorized Peelclear installer.

Each equipment section below lists a **Minimum** (enough to pass certification and run Silver package jobs) and a Recommended level (Gold package, full disassembly, production volume). Specs from the Gen 2.0 quick start are called out where they set the requirement.

Shop layout and stations

Lay the shop out so each car moves one way through the stations, with wash and sanding dust kept away from the booth.



shop flow · 8 stations, 2 support rooms

Mixing (Station 3) and the compressed-air room support the booth: mixing sits beside it, and clean air runs to drops at prep, booth and finishing. Disassembly happens before Station 1 and reassembly after Station 5. A smaller shop can combine Stations 1 and 2 in one bay, but the booth and mixing area should always be dedicated.

Compressed air: compressor, dryer, filtration

Clean, dry, oil-free air is non-negotiable: oil or water in the line shows up as fish eyes and adhesion problems that reducer cannot fix. Size the compressor for every tool running at once spray gun, air blowers, DA sander and blow-off.

Item	Minimum	Recommended
Compressor	5 hp - 7.5 HP two-stage piston, or screw 80+ gal tank, ~25–30 CFM @ 100 PSI.	10–15 HP rotary screw, ~40–55 CFM @ 100–125 PSI
Aftercooler / dryer	Refrigerated air dryer sized above compressor CFM	Refrigerated dryer + desiccant dryer at the booth drop
Piping	Aluminum or copper hard line, sloped back to drains	Closed-loop aluminum system with drops at every station
Drops	Drops come off the top of the main line, drain leg at bottom	Auto drains on every drop and the tank
Filtration at booth	3-stage: water & oil separator → particulate → coalescing (0.01 micron)	Add activated carbon stage for oil vapor, & clean breathable air
Gun regulation	Regulator at the drop	Digital air gauge at the gun handle
Hoses	Non-silicone, paint-grade 3/8 in ID hose	Separate hose for booth only, never used in the shop

Target pressure at the gun is 29 PSI for base and top coat and ~30 PSI for Surface Primer 2.0. Change filter elements on a set schedule, not when they look dirty.

Spray guns and spray equipment

Run one dedicated gun for Surface Primer, waterborne basecoat, then one gun for 2K top coats. so you never cross-contaminate solvent & water. Base coat guns must be waterborne-compatible (stainless fluid passages).

Gun	Material	Setup (quick start)	Minimum	Recommended
Gun 1	Surface Primer 2.0	Low fluid, high atomization, ~30 PSI	Shared with clear base if cleaned well	Sharable w/ basecoat
Gun 2	Clear Base Coat / primer color	1.4 tip @ 29 PSI (WALCOM 360 recommended)	Required	Required

Gun	Material	Setup (quick start)	Minimum	Recommended
Gun 3	Color, pearl, Ultrashift, OEM waterborne	1.4 tip @ 29 PSI	Shared with basecoat if cleaned well	Sharable W/ basecoat
Gun 4	Gloss Top Coat	1.3–1.4 tip @ 29 PSI (SATAjet or WALCOM Genesi Carbonio 360 evo HTE)	Shared with basecoat if cleaned well and switch from water to solvent	Dedicated gun
Gun 5	Matte Top Coat	1.3–1.4 tip @ 29 PSI (SATAjet or WALCOM)	can swamp with gloss topcoat 1.4 tip	Sharable W/ top coat

Supporting equipment:

- Disposable cup system (PPS-style liners) in 800ml or largest size.
- Paint strainers (125–190 micron) for every cup
- Solvent gun washer for top coat guns & over all cleaning (not needed but nice)
- Spare gun rebuild kits
- Gun hangers inside the booth

Station 1: Wash, decon and surface prep stations

The surface must leave prep with zero wax, silicone, polish or ceramic residue. Keep the wash bay physically separate from the booth so water and soap never reach the spray area.

Wash and decon bay - Surface prep station

- Pressure washer and foam cannon
- Unscented Dawn or a filler-free, wax-free, ceramic-free shampoo
- Wash mitts and two-bucket setup with grit guards
- Clay bars or clay mitts + clay lubricant
- Waterborne-safe surface cleaner / degreaser
- Compressed-air blow gun to dry seams, crevices and edges

- Stacks of clean microfiber towels (prep towels kept separate from polish towels)
- DA polisher with foam medium cutting pads
- Medium compound (a few fast passes, not paint correction)
- DI water system or bought DI water
- 99% isopropyl alcohol and DI water for the prep spray, 50/50 mix — no solvent or other prep sprays
- Labeled spray bottles for the IPA prep mix

Never use strong solvents on the clear coat. If solvent contact happens, wait 12 hours before continuing. this can swell clear coat and create chemical adhesion with peelclear.

Station: 2 Masking station

For smaller shops Station 1 can be used.

Masking sets the edge quality and stops bridging, so it gets its own cart or wall station stocked with:

- High-quality automotive masking tape in 3/4, 1-1/2 in widths
- Fine-line tape for hard edge lines 1/8–1/4 detail work
- Tube tape or Q1 T tape standard for jambs and gaps
- Masking paper dispenser with 6, and 18 in rolls
- Plastic masking film dispenser for full-vehicle coverage
- Wheel covers and undercarriage masking Tape and drape.
- Utility knives, snap-off blades and a fresh-blade policy
- Feeler gauge or the fingernail test for the 1/32 in (≈1 mm) gap between parts

Required: Masking machine that applies tape to paper in one pull saves real time on All jobs.

Station 3: Mixing station

The mixing room is where Dip N′ Dyes, pearls, reducers and top coat ratios are measured, so accuracy and cleanliness come first. Keep it next to the booth but outside it.

Item	Purpose (quick start)
Digital scale, 0.1 g resolution	Pearls 50 g per gallon, Ultrashift 25–50 g per gallon
Graduated mixing cups with ratio marks	Top coat Gloss 2:1 + 10%, Matte 4:1:2; Gen 2 Slow Reducer only if a test spray needs it: 5–15% standard, 10–20% hot, 20–25% pearls/metallics
Clean paint sticks (single use)	Top coat is stirred with a paint stick only
Small slow-speed mixer (helpful, not required)	Dissolving Dip N′ Dyes beads in Base Coat
DI water	Making the 1–3 oz paste for Dip N′ Dyes and pearls & reducer
Labeled storage shelving	Find things when you need them
Temperature-controlled storage	Waterborne Base Coat must never freeze
Timer at the bench	Dry times, baking - Top coat pot life ect.
Mixing log / Inspection Report sheet	Records batch, ratio, temp and reducer used for each job.
Color-match scanner (optional)	Dip N′ Dyes digital formulas
Waterborne OEM mixing system	Full oem color catalog

Remove all Gen 1 Slow Reducer, anti-wrinkling and anti-blistering additives, and Low VOC OEM Paint Match from the shop. They are not compatible with Gen 2.0.

Station 4: Paint booth and drying

The booth is where Surface Primer, base coat and top coat are sprayed and baked. It must hold 72°F / 22°C while spraying and reach 140°F / 60°C for the base bake (top coat bakes at 120°F). Waterborne base coat flashes by airflow, so air movement matters as much as heat.

Booth requirements

Item	Minimum	Recommended
Booth type	Heated crossdraft, full vehicle size	Semi-downdraft or full downdraft with bake cycle
Spray temperature	Holds 72°F (22°C)	Digital controller, holds 70–75°F year round
Bake	Reaches 140°F for 30 min	Programmable purge + bake + cool-down cycle
Air movement	2 air blowers on stands	Booth-mounted waterborne drying system
Humidity	Optional	Humidity control or dehumidified intake
Lighting	Full wall lighting, no shadows on lower panels	Wall + corner + ceiling, 5000–6500K, CRI 90+
Filters	Intake + exhaust filters, changed on schedule	Filter pressure gauge (manometer)
Floor	Sealed and clean; masking taped to the floor	Grated floor (downdraft)

Drying and curing

All water must be out of the base before top coat. A wet base under top coat causes dieback and lifting, and stops full crosslinking. Baking after top coat instead needs a longer bake and can cause dieback.

Step	Quick start spec	Equipment
Base: flash between coats	10–20 min until matte	Air blowers, booth airflow
Base: booth bake	140°F for 30 min	Heated booth with bake cycle
Base: IR lights	160°F for 20 min per panel	Short-wave IR lamp on a mobile stand, with timer
Top coat: flash	10–20 min (+10 min before a 3rd coat)	Booth airflow

Step	Quick start spec	Equipment
Top coat: bake	Purge 45–60 min, bake 120°F for 30 min, cool 1–2 hrs	Programmable booth bake cycle
Base and top coat: air dry	Accelerator needed	Air blowers, stable shop temp

Minimum: booth bake + 2 air blowers on stands (or a booth drying system).
Recommended: add short-wave IR lamps or a full bake system, plus an infrared thermometer to confirm panel temperature during bake.

Before buying a booth, check local fire code, air permits and insurance. The top coat is a 2K activated product, which usually triggers booth and respiratory requirements.

Station 5: Finishing station: sanders, polishers, edges

Gloss Top Coat can be sanded, polished and flow-coated like a conventional clear after 12 hours air dry or a full bake.

Item	Minimum	Recommended
Sander	5 or 6 in DA sander, 3 mm orbit	Electric DA with dust extractor (vacuum)
De-nibbing	Sanding block + nib file	Festool LZK-HM de-nibbing tool (named in manual)
Abrasives	P600 (flow coat), P1000, P1500, P2000, P3000 wet	Full range in dry and wet, plus foam interface pads
Polisher	DA polisher	Rotary polisher + DA polisher
Pads	Wool + foam cutting and finishing pads	Separate pad sets per machine, pad washer
Compound / polish	One compound, one polish	Matched cut-and-finish system
Edge finishing	1/2 in Peelclear edge vinyl or pin stripe	Same, plus a vinyl edge tool

Item	Minimum	Recommended
Overspray clean-up	Peelclear Overspray Remover	Same

Sanding order for gloss: P1500 wet → P2000 wet → P3000 wet → wool or foam with compound → foam polish. Matte is not polished; defects are fixed with a flow coat, blended to the adjacent panel.

Disassembly, measurement and safety

Disassembly and reassembly station

- Trim removal tool set, clip pliers, panel poppers
- Socket, Torx and Allen sets, torque wrench (do not over-tighten on reassembly)
- Door stands / door racks and panel stands (needed for Gold package door removal)
- Labeled parts bins or a parts cart per vehicle
- Fender covers and seat/interior covers
- Heat gun for badges and emblem removal

Measurement and quality control

- Paint thickness gauge (ferrous + non-ferrous) measure OEM paint before, basecoat 4–5 mils minimum before top coat
- Booth thermometer
- Infrared thermometer for bake and IR panel temperatures
- Handheld color-correct inspection light
- Photo station or phone tripod for certification and job photos
- Job sheet per vehicle: package, colors, batch, temps, mil readings, bake times

Personal protective equipment

- Supplied-air respirator or fresh-air mask for spraying — check the activator SDS
- Lint-free paint suits with hoods
- Nitrile gloves (never latex near paint)
- Safety glasses and hearing protection
- Fire extinguishers, SDS binder for every product, approved waste containers

Peelclear materials and certification job checklist

Gen 2.0 materials to stock

- Surface Primer 2.0
- Peelclear Base Coat Gen 2.0 (clear, by the gallon)
- Gen 2.0 Base Coat Slow Reducer
- Dip N′ Dyes primer colors (white, off-white, light grey, mid grey, dark grey, Primer Black G10 or white and black and mix you own)
- Dip N′ Dyes colors, pearls and Ultrashift pearls as needed
- Gen 2 OEM waterborne paint (color match jobs)
- Peelclear Top Coat (gloss and matte), Activator, Top Coat Reducer (medium and slow)
- Peelclear Overspray Remover

Certification job photo checklist

- [ ] Vehicle on arrival, all four sides, plus paint thickness readings
- [ ] Wash, clay and dry complete
- [ ] Disassembly done (parts removed, labeled)
- [ ] Masking complete: jambs, gaps, glass, undercarriage
- [ ] Surface Primer 2.0 applied matte finish, not glossy
- [ ] Base coat (4–6 medium-wet coats) with mil reading at 4–5 mils (100 µm) minimum
- [ ] Color / pearl / OEM layer (if used)
- [ ] Base dried (bake, IR or air dry noted)
- [ ] Top coat applied, gloss or matte: 1 hang coat + 2 wet coats
- [ ] Tape removal with clean edges, no bridging
- [ ] Edge 1/2″ pin stripe on jambs (if used)
- [ ] Final delivery photos, all four sides plus close-ups
- [ ] Peel test on a hidden area or test panel

Manual review: conflicts to fix before training

The Gen 2.0 quick start is the correct reference. The full manual needs these updates to match it before installers are trained:

Topic	Correct (quick start)	Manual currently says
Base coat count	4–6 medium-wet coats	4–5 coats
Top coat tip	1.4 tip, gloss and matte	1.3 tip for gloss
Top coat reducer by temp	Medium 60–79°F, slow 80°F+	Medium 60–75°F, slow 75°F+
Top coat bake	Purge 45–60 min, bake 120°F for 30 min, cool 1–2 hrs	Purge, then 140°F / 60°C
Top coat coats	2.5 coats: 1 hang coat + 2 wet	"Apply 5 coat (hang coat)" then 2 wet
Pre-primer wipe	50% DI water / 50% 99% IPA, no solvent or other prep sprays	99% IPA
Slow Reducer ratio	Test spray without it first; 5–15% standard, 10–20% hot, 20–25% pearls/metallics	Big callout says 10%
Bake after top coat option	Warns it can cause dieback	No warning