

X-TREME TAPE™

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Product Report

X-Treme Tape

X-Treme Tape was developed for the military and has some very unusual properties. The silicone-based tape will stick only to itself, and only when placed under tension. Once wrapped around an object, it forms a non-conductive, air- and water-tight, insulating seal that remains flexible within a temperature range of -60° to 500°F. We just had to try it.

The directions tell you to clean the surface, then while stretching the tape, make a complete wrap of the tape onto itself. After that, use half-wraps until you reach the end of the job, and finish off with another complete wrap of tape back over itself. The tape can be repositioned within two minutes of wrapping and will start to bond immediately upon application. A more permanent bond will be formed after 24 hours at room temperature, or one can accelerate the curing process by heating the tape to as much as 350°F with a heat gun.



After Editor Parks offered to purchase a new upper radiator hose for our Ford F150 test vehicle, the old hose was brutally stabbed with a knife, causing a violent leak (the engine was hot at the time!). After wiping up the coolant and drying off the hose, the tape was applied over the slit following the instructions. The cooling system was refilled and we started driving. After driving more than 300 miles, the taped-up hose has not leaked a drop. This is quite impressive as the cooling system is under 15 psi of pressure and cycles between ambient temperature to over 220°F. We consider the radiator hose example an emergency repair and not a permanent fix.

X-Treme Tape comes in black white or grey and is available in a 10" roll for \$5.99. We can think of a thousand uses for the stuff.

-Tracy Martin

MOCAP, Inc.--13100 Manchester Road
St. Louis, MO 63131; (800) 633-6775 www.XTreme-Tape.com