

Net VLT Definition and Calculation



Most factory glass isn't clear.

Net VLT (Visible Light Transmission) is a very common term in automotive tint laws. **The "NET" portion refers to the combination of both glass and film, and not just the film alone.**

Automotive glass usually contains some level of factory tinting. Most automotive glass is in the range of 70% - 85% light transmission. Only the clearest glass is above 90% and is not very common in most markets. When the glass is coated with window film the resulting light transmission is lower than the film alone and is called NET VLT. If the glass is 80% VLT it will darken the film by up to 20%. A simple rule of thumb is NET VLT equals the transmission of the glass multiplied by the transmission of the film. This method is not perfect but it is close enough to keep yourself out of trouble.

Below is an example using 74% glass applying a 35% color stable film and so on:

VLT of Glass X times VLT of Film = NET VLT

Ex: 74% natural glass X 35% film = 25.90% VLT **We can meter check you glass**

Delaware requires 70% VLT on two front windows, if your glass reads 74% x 90% Crystalline film, you will not be legal for DE – we do carry a clear legal UV safety health film. Ask about or 50% off deal to get you through inspections at 1/2 for life

Maryland requires 35% VTL on all car sides and rear, if you glass reads 74% x 50% Crystalline or 50% color stable your VLT= 37.50% (in MD 35% range or higher is legal) Trucks only have to worry about the Driver and passengers to be 35% net, rear can be as dark as you would like.

Pennsylvania requires 70% VLT on all car glass that does not have a factory tint. The NET VLT of this combination using a 35% film is 25.90%. Obviously you cannot use any film other than clear film in an area that has a NET 70% law, but is not usually a problem.

We carry a VLT Meter on hand to test the glass prior to your installation. We perform the math as outlined above and recommend the correct film for our customer needs. We earn repeat business through our knowledge and honesty while protecting your customers.