

What is the purpose of Windlace?

Windlace is a piece of fabric folded over a soft foam core giving it its round shape and gets placed around the opening of doors and gives the upholstery a finished look. Replacing windlace should be done during the upholstery process. The windlace offers a second seal to help protect against the outside element. Classic and vintage car enthusiasts are familiar with the consequences of worn-down seals: increasing wind sounds, rattling noises, the build-up of dust, and even mold. Through continued and repeated use, such as opening and closing doors or windows, the seals become degraded, requiring upkeep or replacement. Weatherstripping and windlace are two different products that can be used for classic car restoration and that serve the same purpose: weatherproofing. These materials are placed at the edges of a car's windshield, doors, and windows – or any other areas that could expose the interior to external elements. This serves to prevent the intrusion of water, dust, and insects, and insulates the vehicle against wind noises. As similar as they are, though, they do differ in material, cost, and durability. So, when it's time to update your beloved vehicle, which should you choose?

What is a Weatherstrip Seal?

The term itself can actually be used to describe both a product, and a category of products. Also referred to as “weather seals,” weatherstripping can be an umbrella term that includes options like splash shields and window sweeps. In fact, windlace can actually be considered to fall under this category.

As an individual product, the seal is EPDM rubber that has been die-cut to fit the contour of a car's interior. It's thicker, maintains its shape well, and does not weaken as quickly as windlace if it becomes wet for prolonged periods. It's also less likely to tear in cold weather. It comes in different styles, like perforated or solid, and is generally the more affordable option

What is Windlace Trim?

Windlace is a thinner and lighter option, and is made of sponge cord wrapped in stitched fabric with an acrylic finish. It's often used in places where weatherstripping would be too bulky for a tighter space, such as at the edges between the doors and the body. Here, the thickness of weatherstripping may make it difficult or impossible to close the door fully. It does offer a little better protection against moisture, but it degrades faster from being wet, and can be more expensive. Windlace is also used to finish the upholstery in vintage cars. When worn-out, it can give the car an unfinished appearance.

The Pros & Cons of Weatherstrip and Windlace:

Weatherstripping is generally more affordable and durable, but is more bulky. Windlace provides great protection, but is less durable and, often, more costly. Windlace is necessary for finishing the upholstery of many classic cars.