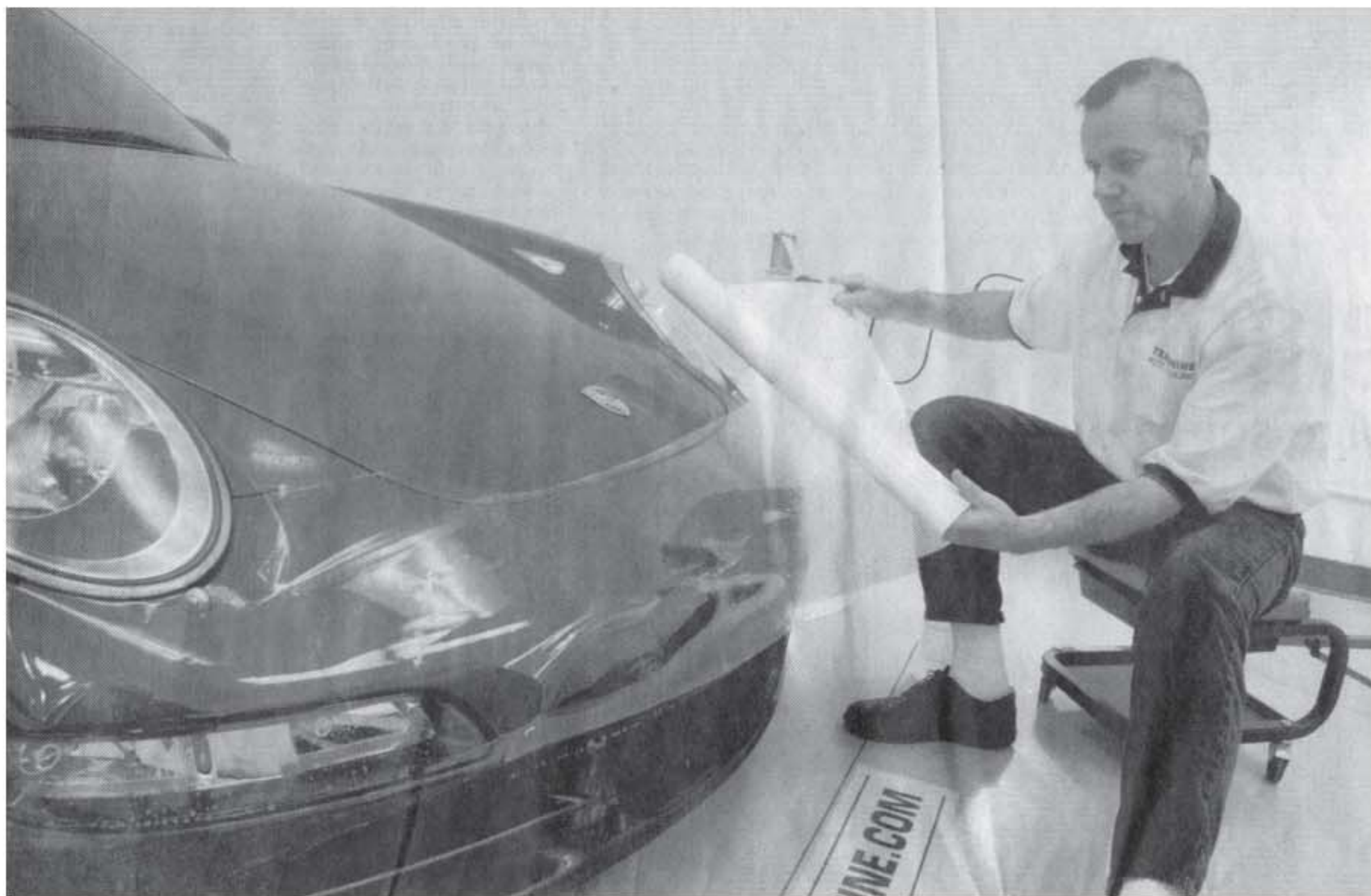


WHITTIER DAILY NEWS

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PHOTOS BY KEITH DURFLINGER / STAFF

SHINE SHIELD: Bill DeBever, owner of Transhine Auto-Detailing in Whittier, applies a 3M/Scotchgard Paint Protection Film on the front of this Porsche on Wednesday. DeBever says it takes four to six hours to install a kit. Below, DeBever shows the paint protection film after it is applied.

A shine that protects, too

Special coating for vehicles shields paint from damage

BY RODNEY TANAKA
STAFF WRITER

WHITTIER — Los Angeles drivers will always have to deal with rude motorists and heavy traffic, but their cars might be saved from the dings and dents of the road.

Transhine Auto-Detailing in Whittier is an authorized dealer of 3M/Scotchgard Paint Protection Film, used to protect a vehicle's paint from damage caused by road debris, rocks and bugs. The film doesn't chip or pit up, said Bill DeBever, owner of Transhine.

"It's not visible. It's not intrusive. It doesn't wear down or out," he said.

The benefits are similar to old

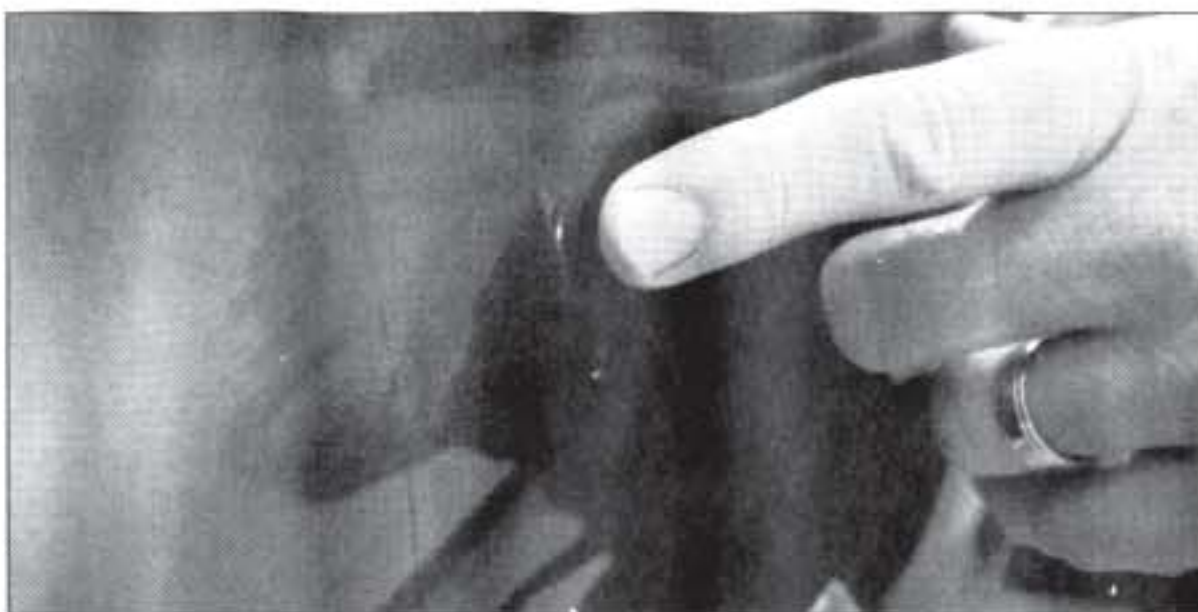


► For a video of the auto-detailing process, visit our Web site at www.sgvn.com.

vinyl bras or bug guards on mini-vans and cars, but without affecting the car's look, DeBever said.

"[Customers] are very pleased they could put this on and it didn't obscure the car's look," he said. "It didn't have to come on and off and it didn't require special maintenance."

The film can be applied to various parts of the car, such as the hood, wheel wells and rear-view mirrors. The film can also be removed with-



out damaging the paint, DeBever said.

The film also allows the paint to breathe and continue to age like the rest of the car, so covered sections will not be a different shade than the rest of the car, he said.

The work comes with a five-year warranty against yellowing, cracking and material defects, he said.

The technology was first used in the military to protect aircraft blades from sand, DeBever said.

The film first gained popularity commercially for higher-end cars, but is now available for most types of vehicles, he said.

Costs vary depending on the type of car and the amount of coverage. A bumper kit for a standard passenger car might cost about \$250. A bumper and hood kit costs \$500 to install.

"This is perfect for the Los Angeles driver," DeBever said.

Whittier resident George Engelage had Transhine apply the film to three cars — a 2003 Lexus SC 430, and two Ford GTs.

"I think it's a very good product," he said. "I would do it again in a minute."

He had protection put on the headlights and fog lights, the side rocker panels, the leading edge of the air scoops and behind the rear wheels where rocks might kick up.

"If you get down real close you can tell that it's there, but from 5 or 10 feet away you can't even see it," Engelage said.

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