

Personal Protection Products

Use and Care Manual



Use & Care Manual for Personal Protection Products

Thank you for your purchase and/or use of Integris Composites, Inc. (“INTEGRIS”) personal protection products. The purpose of this *Use & Care Manual for Personal Protection Products* (the “Use and Care Manual”) is to provide you information on the appropriate use and care of personal protection hard armor products (including body armor, shields, and other hard armor solutions used for personal protection) manufactured by INTEGRIS (the “Hard Armor Products”) over the intended warranty period. INTEGRIS products are tested in accordance with and compliant to National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Standards and/or *Integris Composites Testing Protocol*. These products are manufactured in accordance with specific guidelines and technical specifications in accordance with Quality Assurance System ISO 9001:2015.

Proper Use:

INTEGRIS Hard Armor Products are a core element of a body armor system that protects against specific threats. The most important aspect of the Hard Armor Products is to first understand that they are “ballistic resistant” and not “bullet proof.” Protection is only provided if the Hard Armor Product is worn properly and only protects the area of the body that it covers. A user should ensure he/she wears the correct size body armor for his/her physique to cover the areas of the body that need protection. The second most important aspect of a Hard Armor Product is to understand the type of threats you need protection against and to determine if your Hard Armor Product is designed and tested against those types of threats.

Although INTEGRIS’s Hard Armor Products are tested to NIJ Standards and/or *Integris Composites Testing Protocol*, this does not assure your Hard Armor Product can defeat all types of threats in all types of conditions and environments. The label on the Hard Armor Product provides important information, such as the product’s design number, date of manufacture, threat type(s) the armor is designed to address, compliance statement, as well as maintenance instructions.

ORIENTATION OF HARD BODY ARMOR PRODUCTS: Hard body armor inserts are designed to defeat certain threats only if properly inserted into an outer carrier facing in the correct direction. The label affixed to the panel indicates which side is the “STRIKE FACE” and / or “BODY SIDE” – meaning the side that must face outward toward the threat or towards the body, respectively. The user **MUST** ensure that hard body armor products are properly inserted into a carrier in the proper direction. Additionally, ensure the words on the product are oriented correctly, i.e., not upside down, when wearing the product. Failure to follow these instructions can result in serious injury or death.

Proper Care:

Follow these procedures when cleaning INTEGRIS’s Hard Armor Products:

1. For body armor, remove the Hard Armor Products from the carrier.
2. Gently wipe the Hard Armor Products with a damp sponge and a mixture of cool water and mild laundry detergent or antimicrobial soap. For purposes of these care instructions, a “mild laundry detergent” means a standard household laundry detergent intended for delicate or everyday fabrics that does not contain bleach, chlorine, ammonia, solvents, fabric softeners, optical brighteners, or other harsh cleaning agents. Examples of suitable mild laundry detergents include free-and-clear or gentle detergents formulated without bleach or fabric softeners. Do not use bleach, stain movers, solvents, abrasive cleaners, or products containing ammonia.
3. Wipe off excess soap with clean water and a damp sponge.
4. Lay flat and wipe dry. **DO NOT** place in the sun.
5. Ensure Hard Armor Products are completely dry before inserting into a carrier.
6. **DO NOT** dry clean Hard Armor Products. **DO NOT** commercially launder Hard Armor Products. **DO NOT** expose Hard Armor Products to bleach (liquid or vapor) or other harsh chemicals. For purposes of these care instructions, “harsh chemicals” means substances that may degrade, weaken, discolor, or otherwise damage the armor materials, coatings, adhesives, labels, or protective finishes, including bleach, chlorine-based cleaners, ammonia-based cleaners, solvents, strong acids, strong alkalis, and abrasive cleaning agents.
7. Store in a dry area where the temperature will not exceed 51° C (125° F) and avoid direct sun and ultraviolet light exposure. Do not store hard armor products in the trunk, passenger compartment, or other enclosed areas of a vehicle for extended periods, as temperatures inside vehicles can rise rapidly and may exceed the recommended storage temperature, potentially degrading product performance.

Additional Use and Care Warnings:

FAILURE TO CLOSELY FOLLOW THESE USE & CARE INSTRUCTIONS WILL VOID ALL WARRANTIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY BALLISTIC PERFORMANCE WARRANTY, AND COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH. Do not abuse your Hard Armor Product. Inspect your Hard Armor Product frequently. Remove the Hard Armor Product from service immediately, dispose of it properly, and replace it if it has been struck by a projectile, subjected to a blast event, exposed to a severe impact, crushed, run over by a vehicle, dropped from a significant height, or otherwise subjected to conditions that may have compromised ballistic integrity. Hard Armor Products may sustain internal damage that is not visible during a visual inspection. Do not use any Hard Armor Product that exhibits cracks, fractures, delamination, deformation, punctures, excessive wear, or other signs of damage.

EDGE IMPACTS AND BALLISTIC PERFORMANCE: Hard Armor Products are designed to meet certain edge performance requirements in accordance with the standard identified on the product label. Projectiles that hit outside of that region may not be stopped even when the Hard Armor Product complies with the standard on its label.

OBLIQUITY IMPACTS AND BALLISTIC PERFORMANCE: Some Hard Armor Products are designed for both frontal and angle impacts, but the greater the angle at which a projectile impacts the Hard Armor Product the greater the possibility that the projectile may penetrate or slide off the side of the Hard Armor Product resulting in serious injury or death.

MULTI-HIT IMPACTS AND BALLISTIC PERFORMANCE: Some Hard Armor Products are designed for multiple impacts, but the greater the number of impacts and the close proximity of each impact with the next may weaken that area increasing the possibility that a projectile may penetrate the Hard Armor Product resulting in serious injury or death.

MULTI-THREAT PROTECTION: Hard Armor Products are designed for specific threats and are not intended to be resistant to all threats (e.g., handgun threats, rifle threats, fragmentation threats, blunt force trauma threats, spiked instruments, edged blades, needles, electronic discharge weapons, etc.). Users of INTEGRIS Hard Armor Products MUST view the label and/or product data sheet to fully understand the level of protection each product provides. Never assume the level of protection your Hard Armor Product provides and always remember Hard Armor Products are “Ballistic Resistant” and not “Bullet Proof”.

STAND-ALONE AND IN-CONJUNCTION DESIGNS

Hard Armor Products that are body armor are designed to be worn Stand-Alone without soft body armor or In-Conjunction with soft body armor. Users of INTEGRIS Hard Armor Products must view the product label or product data sheet, to determine whether the product is designed in a Stand-Alone or In-Conjunction configuration. Never assume your Hard Armor Product was designed to be Stand-Alone. Failure to wear soft body armor when your Hard Armor Product was designed to be worn In-Conjunction with soft body armor may result in excessive trauma, and possibly serious injury or death.

Disposal of Hard Armor Products:

Hard Armor Products should be disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Prior to disposal, ensure the product and its components are destroyed to prevent restoration or repair to a usable condition. Hard Armor Products that have sustained a ballistic impact, have been exposed to physical damage, or have otherwise reached the end of their service life should be permanently removed from service and destroyed or rendered unusable before disposal. Recommended methods may include cutting, crushing, drilling, or otherwise permanently damaging the plate to prevent future use.

Do not dispose of armor products in a manner that could result in their recovery, resale, or reuse as personal protective equipment. If disposal is being performed by a government agency, law enforcement organization, or other regulated entity, follow all applicable agency policies and property disposition procedures.

The materials used in Hard Armor Products may include ceramics, metals, polymers, adhesives, and composite materials. Users should consult local waste management authorities regarding any recycling, special handling, or disposal requirements applicable to these materials.

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