



Printing on Non Absorbent Stocks

Printing on non-absorbent stocks such as plastic and synthetic materials can be a real challenge, especially when printing these stocks conventionally and not in a UV process.

There are four key points to consider when you print on these materials.

Rollers:

Before tackling printing on non-absorbent stocks you will want to make sure the ink rollers are deep cleaned and decalcified. This will give you proper ink transfer. Also, clean your water rollers with a quality Metering Roller Cleaner. If you have not desensitized the chrome rollers for some time this would be the time to do so. Allowing your water system to carry a good thin water film to the plate is essential.

Water System:

Clean the dampening system. Flush with dampening system cleaner to remove all types of contamination out of the water system. Fill the water tanks with clean fresh fountain solution and alcohol replacement or alcohol. You will want your chemistry to be at its peak performance when running these stocks. Run your water speeds at the bare minimum. Heavy water speeds will not work out well.

Ink System:

The use of a High Solid ink system will reduce the risk of poor drying and poor adhesion to the substrate. Contact your ink supplier for their specific recommendation depending on the substrate. Your ink supplier can provide the correct drying package since these inks will dry by oxidation and less by absorption. It is not recommended to use a stay open ink formula. Lastly, allow time for proper drying on these stocks. Time is critical to allow the ink to set and dry completely.

Stock:

Do a Dyne test on each and every load/batch of stock. The range in which these stocks dry the best is 38 to 44 dynes. Using a liquid Dyne solution works best as long as you use a clean Q tip every time. Using a pen style Dyne testing can sometimes give you false readings due to contamination on the tip of the pen.

Printing on these non-absorbent stocks is done every day. However, by following these four key points will give you a better quality and more reliable printed job. For additional technical support, or product recommendations to help you, please contact us at 800-527-8626 or info@towerproducts.com.