

OFFSET PRINTING AND CONVERTING TIPS

TIP #1 HOW TO OFFSET PRINT PRESSURE SENSITIVE

Storage:

- Store pressure sensitive stock on a flat surface in a cool dry area between 65 and 75 degrees F at 50% relative humidity
- Break bands to relieve pressure on skid-packed stock
- Do not double stack skids or stack more than 5,000 sheets high
- Do not open sealed packages until ready to print
- Return unused stock to cartons or protective packaging

Press Preparation:

- Allow product to acclimate to shop conditions for at least 24 hours
- Clean and adjust grippers and guides to avoid miss-feeding through press
- Avoid loading stock higher than 6 inches
- Fan stock gently to separate before loading into press
- Reduce cylinder pressure as much as possible to prevent wrinkling

Inks and Varnish:

- Consult your ink supplier for recommendations based on pressure sensitive stock used
- Use a minimum amount of water and ink mixture for best results
- Oxidizing inks are recommended for non-absorbent facestocks, including films and coated stocks
- UV varnishes add gloss; matte or textured finishes provide UV, weather, moisture, and scuff resistance. Ensure UV varnish is compatible with your ink system; a thin coat is recommended for optimal curing
- Stocks that will be laser printed require specialty inks that can withstand the high temperatures and pressure of laser printers

Guillotine Cutting:

- Blade should be clean and sharp
- Reduce clamp pressure as much as possible
- Cut through the back of the stock with the face down
- Trim in small lifts

TIP #2 PRINTING ON SYNTHETIC STOCKS

Synthetic Inks are designed to print on synthetic films, such as vinyl, polyester, polypropylene and other non-porous printing surfaces. These specially formulated inks require cautious handling to achieve the best results.

- Use only fast drying oxidizing inks
- Use a minimum amount of ink and fountain solution. More fountain solution will require more ink to achieve good coverage and dark print
- Some ink manufacturers recommend a 0.4 mil ink thickness on the form roller, and just enough fountain solution to keep the print clean
- Do NOT use fountain solutions that contain glycol, glycerin or citric acid

- **Keep pH level between 4.5 and 5.5**
- **Work closely with your ink supplier.** Always pretest on the actual substrate or submit samples along with run length, color sequence and press type to your ink supplier

Note: For UV Ink Systems – Contact your ink supplier.

To avoid ink set-off and blocking when printing films, we recommend a jar/press setting of .6/50 to .8/75 using a 25 to 35 micron particle size anti set-off spray. Using larger particle sizes may shorten drying time.