

Cyber Artboard Dye Sublimation Q&A

What Is Dye Sublimation?

Overview Dye sublimation is a digital printing technology that enables the reproduction of colourful images on common everyday items, including clothing and novelties.

You create an image on your computer, print it onto special transfer paper using sublimation inks, and then apply the paper with the image onto the item to be decorated. Using a heat press, the transfer paper is pressed onto the surface at 240 degrees, which then causes the sublimation inks to “transfer” from the paper to any polymer fibres within the substrate. After about a minute, the heat is removed and the transfer paper is peeled off, leaving behind a permanent, full colour image on the substrate.

Sublimation ink is unique in its ability to convert from a solid to a gas without going through a liquid form. The conversion is initiated by heat and controlled with pressure and time. The high temperature - from a heat transfer press - opens the pores of the polymer and allows the gas to enter. When the temperature drops, the pores close and the gas reverts to a solid state. The print then becomes part of the polymer.

Hard items including ceramics and metals require a special coating to accept the sublimation inks. However, you do not need any coating on 100% **polyester** items such as mouse mats and 100% polyester fabric. We stock a wide range of sublimation imprintables fabric.

Why Do You Need It?

Prior to digital printing, reproducing images on these items (T-shirts being a typical example), required labour-intensive analogy processes such as screen-printing. Analogy printing technology is not cost-effective when small quantities are involved.

Due to the immense amount of time used to prepare the artwork and the equipment involved in the production process, analogy printing is expensive and time consuming, particularly if all you need is one or even half a dozen items printed.

On the other hand, digital printing, especially dye-sublimation printing, is quick and inexpensive in both the setup and production. This makes it an ideal choice for both creating personalized, one-of-a-kind items and mass producing a variety of custom products. Moreover, dye-sublimation printing yields beautiful and permanent colours that are embedded in the substrate or fabric, rather than printed on the surface.

Images on fabric won't fade or crack even after multiple washings. Images on hard substrates will not chip, peel or scratch.

The modern dye sublimation process is quite simple.

I Am Not a Designer, How Can I Work With Your Design Team to Get Job Done?

There are three different options. First, you can pick and choose the design from our online design library in which our design team is continuously uploading new designs online.

Second, you can source your own design concept through Internet surfing.

Finally, you can download our order form and provide your brief; our design team will create the mock up for you to approval.

Cyber Artboard Design Lab:

You can choose the design from our online design library, change the colour, place logos on the garment and add text, but we still request you to send the logo or picture in right format separately by email.

Can You Modify The Design From My Previous Job?

Yes

How About The Logo?

We do request the logo to be in vector format to meet high quality of dye sublimation printing. If you have a low quality format such as a .JPG, .BMP or .GIF file, we may need to re-create the logo in a higher resolution format which would incur additional fees.

How About The Picture?

We request the picture in 300 dpi to meet the high quality of dye sublimation printing.

When To Use CMYK Vs. RGB Vs. PMS

RGB is used only for digital designs. In fact, any design created with an RGB colour profile must be converted to CMYK or PMS colours before printing. As a rule of thumb, you should only use RGB when designing for the web.

Colour Reference:

Our preference for colour reference is PMS colour.

How About The Setup Cost?

We provide FREE mock up design and production layout, but there is an additional cost for the order Quantity less than our standard MOQ.

What Is The Minimum Quantity?

Our minimum quantity is 25 pieces per style; there will be a surcharge for any order quantity less than 25 pieces.

Can I Order Mix Size?

Yes

Can I Mix Different Styles To Meet MOQ?

No, Minimum Quantity is 25 pieces for each style.

What Is My Minimum Quantity For My Reorder

Our minimum quantity of Re-order is 12 pieces per style; there will be the surcharge for DHL freight cost from China.

How Many Fabric Available?

We carries 14 different fabrics to satisfy your different needs, please refer to our catalogue for the details

Is Dye Sublimation Works for All Materials?

Dye sublimation will not work on 100% cotton. There has to be polyester which holds the sublimed dye, the more the better. We have successfully developed a “**Cotton Backed**” fabric, which can both satisfy comfort needs, and also retain the sharpness and brightness of the printing quality.

What Is The Usual Lead Time?

Visual artwork: 3-5 working days

Pre-Production Sample: 5-7 working days

Production: 4 weeks after final approval

Can I Have My Custom Label:

Yes, You may also order 1,000 labels, which we can store at our factory for your future needs, and there is an additional cost.

Can I have a pocket on the garment?

Yes, at no additional charge

Can I Have Knitted Collars, Cuffs, Neck Rib Or Arm Bands?

Yes, minimum quantity is 100 pieces, and there is extra cost.

Can We Add Individual Name And Number?

Yes, but there is an additional cost.

Can You Match The Specific Colours?

Yes, we can match to any specific PMS colour, but there may be slight differences.

Can I Use A Specific Fabric?

Yes, but the minimum quantity is 800 pieces.

Will The Colour Be Exactly The Same On The All Fabrics?

Colour may vary slightly when applied to different fabrics. Different weaves can give colours a different appearance.

What About Sizing?

All our dye sublimation patterns have been developed base on our standard stock service items with exception of on-field gears.