

Conventional Offset Printing Tips

The following tips are suggested to prevent ink drying failures on synthetic substrates:

- Ask ink supplier to provide inks that are specifically formulated for “synthetic” substrates (these will be high solids inks).
- If possible, have all ink colors pre-tested on the actual material that will be printed in the press run.
- Ask ink supplier to confirm that the water-uptake rate of the inks is low enough to prevent emulsification while printing synthetic substrates (this is particularly important on longer runs).
- Have inks formulated with a slightly higher concentration of dryer. The ink formulator should know how much extra dryer (drying agent) to add.
- Use the largest grain-size litho powder possible (40- to 50-micron is best).
- Open the powder sprayers to at least 80% or 90%+ if possible without compromising the print clarity.
- If possible, avoid the use of alcohol substitutes in the fountain solution (your local air quality or other government regulatory bodies may not permit this).
- Turn the water keys down as far as possible without scumming or piling the inks.
- If practical, turn the press line speed down by 10-20% to minimize ink emulsification.
- Closely monitor the conductivity and pH of the fountain solutions during the entire run. Pay close attention if using de-ionized water.
- Keeping the water levels to a minimum is most important. Extra water inhibits the ink drying process.
- Stack the printed sheets in short lifts, preferably no more than one or two inches high.
- If possible, “wind” the sheets a few hours after the print run.
- Stack (and re-stack, if “winding”) the sheets in a very warm room.
- Use metal plates when printing with oxidizing inks.

Contact us at 1-800-826-4886 or orders@ncpedge.com if you have any questions.