

Printing hints and tips Offset PE

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Introduction

The surface of Fasson Offset PE is coated with a special clay coating enabling to print with inks that dry by absorption as well as oxidation.

The film base is a single extruded sheet of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE).

Prior to printing, allow the sheets to condition to print shop temperature: this will prevent wavy edges and condensation to the print surface. Sheet delivery should be flat and ensure jiggers are not too tight against the sheets. Stacks should be maintained at around 500-1000 sheets depending on ink film weight and subject matter. It is important that sufficient oxygen can penetrate between the sheets to allow the ink to dry completely prior to further handling and processing. Non vanishing dry spray powder should be used to prevent the risk of set off; particle size of 15-20 µm should be sufficient.

Offset PE can be handled like any other matt-coated paper.

Inks

In certain instances it is possible to use standard offset inks, as the surface of Offset PE will allow some ink absorption. (For single or two colour jobs) Inks as used for other matt-coated papers will give good ink drying and adhesion. Fully oxidation type of inks can also be printed and will offer hard drying and rub resistance.

Dampening water

Dampening should be kept to a minimum so that ink/water balance is controlled. If any fountain additives are used, it is suggested to dilute these by 50%. The use of fountain solutions that contain lubricants should be avoided, as they may prolong ink drying. For best results the pH level should be maintained at around 5.5. Alcohol dampening system will give very good results with the IPA solution at 10%.

Note: Please contact your ink supplier for further advice about the best combination of inks and additives.