

Printing hints and tips for Tyvek

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Introduction

Tyvek spunbonded olefin is 100% polyethylene fibre. It has been corona treated on both sides to improve ink adhesion and it is coated with an antistatic agent to facilitate sheet handling. Unlike with other materials these treatments are permanent. Tyvek is not a paper. If you pay attention to the details, you will find printing on TYVEK to be much easier.

Use low solvent content inks - TYVEK is unaffected by water, but hydrocarbon solvents found in most offset inks will swell and distort it. It is important to use inks containing less than 3% volatile solvent. These inks are usually made from dry pigment. Most ink suppliers have offset inks for TYVEK.

Inks made from permanent pigments are recommended for printing TYVEK.

Add more impression – TYVEK will require about 0.08-0.10 mm additional impression compared to a sheet of paper of equivalent thickness.

Reduce level of dampening solution – TYVEK does not absorb water as readily as paper and, for this reason, the press should run with less dampening resolution. If the printing is dull or washed out, reduce the amount of dampening solution, don't increase the ink volume.

Print with minimum ink film thickness –This will minimise dot distortion, sheet distortion and the appearance of fibre swirl and will also reduce ink-drying time.

Offset inks dry more slowly on TYVEK than paper. When doing full coverage multi colour printing, keep the pile height below 50 cm. Winding the sheets will also accelerate drying.

TYVEK is unaffected by alcohol and alcohol substitute dampening solutions additives.

Either side of TYVEK can be printed. Generally, the smooth side, with a slight downward curl at the edges is preferred. However, for two-side printing with heavy coverage and back it upon the rough side with the heavier coverage.

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