

Dye Sublimation FAQ'S

When was this new technology introduced?

The official commercialization of Nekoosa's dye sublimation papers was launched on February 22nd, 2024.

How many products will Nekoosa launch of dye sublimation paper?

Nekoosa has two products, a 105 gsm and 140 gsm paper; however, there will be a range of widths to select from. You can expect additional sizes to be added over time.

What are the primary advantages of dye sublimation print compared to a traditional heat transfer print?

There are many advantages to dye sublimated printing:

- The quality and definition of the image or artwork in the finished substrate.
- The elimination of dry time.
- The simplicity of one paper that prints onto both hard and soft surfaces.
- No peeling, cracking, or fading of your final design.

What kinds of substrates are compatible with dye sublimation paper?

Nekoosa's 105 gsm and 140 gsm can transfer onto **BOTH hard and soft substrates!** Materials must contain polyester or have a polyester-based coating on the surface.

What are the primary applications for this new dye sublimation paper?

The most common **soft surfaces** include apparel, mouse pads, tradeshow graphics, blankets, curtains, tablecloths, sportswear and more. The most common **hard surfaces** include metal water bottles, ceramic mugs, phone cases, metal artwork, snowboards, glass, and more.

Which applications work best with each grade (105 or 140 gsm)?

Although both can be used interchangeably, the heavier 140 gsm material is excellent for projects with more complexities, whether it's size, value, detail, ink concentration, and more.

What kind of printer do I need to dye sublimate?

Printers that are designed to use dye sublimation inks are key in this print process. A few examples are Epson SureColor, HP Stitch, Sawgrass, Brother, EFI Reggiani, Roland, etc.

Which printers are Nekoosa's dye sublimation papers compatible with?

Our dye sublimation paper is compatible with all dye sub printers that are designed for water-based ink systems. Nekoosa has printing profiles available for HP Stitch. If you are using a different brand, please contact your salesperson, or email sales@Nekoosa.com for additional support.

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What kind of ink do I need in order to dye sublimate?

Dye sublimation inks are needed for the sublimation process to occur from solid to gas during the transfer. Dye sublimation inks are primarily process colors, leveraging the CMYK color model.

Can you dye sublimate onto dark colored materials?

For optimal image transfers, dye sublimation works best on light colored materials.

Can you dye sublimate into 100% cotton?

No, sublimation printing works only on materials with high polyester, or materials pre-treated with a polyester-based coating.

Is there a shelf life with Nekoosa's dye sublimation paper?

Our dye sublimation paper has a 1-year shelf life in its original packaging. To protect the material, it is recommended to store the paper in its original packaging until your next use.

How do I store my dye sublimation paper?

Store and use in environments with 36% to 51% relative humidity for effective printing and drying. You should also allow paper to acclimate to room temperature prior to usage. Avoid storing paper directly onto floor and avoid exposure to heated or air conditioned air currents.

Which side do I print on?

Nekoosa's dye sublimation rolls are wound with the coated side facing out. Printing must be performed on the **coated side** of the sheet. There are a couple of ways to determine which is the coated, or printable, side: 1) the coated side will be non-fluorescent when held under a black light (the uncoated side will light up as fluorescent), and 2) the coated side will peel coating off when performing a tape pull, whereas the uncoated side will yield a fiber tear.

What is the difference between digital printing and dye sublimation?

Digital printing involves applying the ink directly onto a material's surface, while dye sublimation printing results in the absorption of inks into the material itself. Dye sublimation is extremely durable and resistant to being scratched, peeled, or cracked.

Is dye sublimation good quality?

Dye sublimation offers professional grade print quality with sharp details and vibrant colors that will not fade, crack, or peel with time. It is also waterproof and lasts longer than traditional inks.

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Is Nekoosa dye sublimation paper sustainable?

Nekoosa's dye sublimation transfer paper is part of our Nekoosa Promise paper-based line of products that is made in the USA and is 100% recyclable. It is also FSC certified, ensuring that it is sourced from responsibly managed forests that provide environmental, social and economic benefits for a more sustainable printing solution.

Who can I call for technical support?

Please contact your salesperson for immediate questions, or email sales@Nekoosa.com.