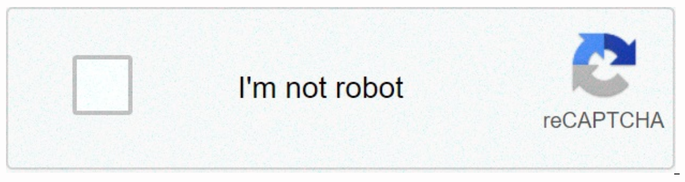

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Sublimation heat press

Showing 1-16 of the 20 results Sublimation is a chemical process that depends on molecular bonding. It requires precise thermopremere settings in three aspects: time, temperature and pressure. A small variance in one of these parameters can affect image quality. Therefore, you need to choose a high-quality sublimation thermal press that can provide and maintain the necessary settings for each job, each time. The good news is that they come in different sizes, configurations and degrees of quality. A thermostatization may seem like unsophisticat equipment, but what you don't see makes a difference when it comes to reliability and results. Time All heat presses include programmable timers. Most automatically activate when the press is closed and a buzzer rings when the time has expired so that the operator can open it. Some thermal presses open automatically when time has passed. This can cause the transfer card to move slightly to the substrate and cause the image to ghost, which can ruin the sublimation of the element. If you are using such a press thermo, consider disabling the auto-open feature. If you keep it enabled, make sure that the transfer is properly attached to the substrate. Temperature Most sublimation products require a constant temperature of 400 °F for one minute. A variation of a few degrees can affect the colors and details of the final image. Heat presses consist of upper and lower platelets. The first contains heating elements, while the second supports the substrate during pressing. (Note: On some presses, both the upper and lower plates are heated.) Quality thermo presses have reliable heating elements that offer an accurate temperature with minor fluctuations (drifting). In addition, the heating elements ensure that the temperature of the upper plate is consistent throughout the surface, thus preventing cold spots, which can cause uneven colors in a sublidata image. Some thermoevie presses use lower quality elements that are more apart in order to reduce costs. The price and quality of production for these units can be significantly lower. For other applications, such as heat transfers, this may be suitable, but not for sublimation. Pressure In addition to providing heat, the upper plate also produces pressure on the substrate. It is essential that the plate is flat, uniform and built with quality materials so that it does not die during the pressing process. Inconsistent or irregular pressure will affect the quality of sublimation, leading to imbalances imperfect details and possible ghosting. Lower quality heat presses tend to be made from less substantial materials to save costs. For most other applications, pressure is not an important factor, so an irregular plaque will have little, if any, effect. But it is a critical aspect of high-quality sublimation. Characteristics of thermostatization When choosing a thermal press for sublimation, sublimation, on the size, shape and thickness of what you want to produce. Size is obviously an important factor, since the thermotax must be large enough to completely cover the area being decorateed. Curved items, such as cups, require a different pressing methodology than flat items, and thick substrates require solutions other than thin ones. Consider the following physical factors when comparing heat presses: 1. Plate configuration Most sublimation substrates are pressed using a flat thermal press, many of which are available in different sizes and three different plate configurations: clam shell, oscillation, and drawer. Clam shell units are the most common type of thermal press. The top and bottom plates are connected by a hinge, and the press opens and closes angularly, then the name. These units are suitable for thin substrates, but can have irregular pressure on thicker objects such as plaques, ceramic tiles, flip flops, etc. This is because more pressure will be applied near the hinge and less pressure further away from it. The result can be irregular imaging and unbalanced colors. Some shell models are equipped with a compound hinge system that makes them more suitable for thicker objects. The upper plates of swing-away units are mounted on an arm to be moved directly up and down. This movement exerts the same pressure on the entire surface of the substrate, regardless of its thickness. In addition, when the thermal press is opened, the upper plate can oscillate to one side, making it easier to access the lower plate to place and align the substrates. The heat presses of the drawer also have a mounted upper plate that can be raised and lowered, but does not oscillate. Instead, the lower plate pulls forward, allowing easy access. This type of unit works well for thin and thick substrates. 2. Plate size is the most important factor when choosing a thermal press, as it determines the maximum image size that can be applied. The same heat on the entire surface is important for high-quality sublimation. However, the temperature can decrease along the outer edges of the thermal press, so it only works with images smaller than the size of the plate. With a quality thermal press, you should take on a 1-inch buffer zone on all four sides. (This can be overly cautious, but sublimation is a heat-sensitive process.) Therefore, the usable heating area of a 20 x 24 press would be 18 x 22. As a rule the press should be at least 1 inch larger on all four sides than the maximum printer field size. For example, if the printer can print 13 x 19, the size of the thermal press should be at least 14 x 20. 3. Manual or pneumatic The recommended pressure for sublimation on most substrates is 40 psi. However, most presses do not have pressure indicators, so the average pressure will generally be sufficient. Most thermoemechanical presses use a mechanical closure system Operated. Plate pressure is controlled by adjusting a knob, which activates a jack screw system that lifts or lowers the top plate in relation to the lower plate. This checks the spacing between both surfaces when the press is closed, determines the amount of pressure applied to the substrate surface. Space must be increased or decreased, depending on the thickness or thinness of the item. Some thermoel presses are available as pneumatically controlled systems. They use air pressure to close the plate and apply a specific amount of pressure to the substrate surface. When the pressing process is complete, the system opens automatically. Pneumatic systems offer two distinct advantages over manual systems. First, the operator should not use physical exertion to operate the system, which reduces the chances of repetitive movement injuries. Secondly, you can specify precise pressure settings, which makes it quick and easy to set different types of substrates for production. This also allows you to replicate the pressure parameters on future work. On the contrary, manual pressure settings are based on sensation, not accuracy. This leads to trial and error when it comes to setting up processes and also makes it difficult to replicate exact settings on future orders. Thermostatization is a key part of sublimation production, and you should focus on buying a reliable unit that will provide precise temperature and even pressure on each job. Select a drive from a reliable source that offers technical support, parts, and support. Focus on long-term investment rather than short-term purchase price. Award-winning international author and speaker Jimmy Lamb has more than 20 years of experience in clothing decorating. He is currently communications director for Sawgrass Technologies, Charleston, South Carolina. For more information or to comment on this article, email Jimmy jlamb@sawgrassink.com. Special pressing products Curved and rounded products require special heat presses, such as a cup or cap press, which have curved surfaces designed to fit such products. Combination presses also offer flat and curved pressing capabilities with specialized accessories. Special 3D heat presses are also designed for products with curved surfaces. In addition, they can apply images to multiple surfaces of a single substrate, such as the top and sides of a cell phone cover. This type of press uses a vacuum system, not a plate, to pull a narrow membrane around the substrate and then applies heat of convection. Casings can be used with some rounded products as an alternative to presses. Transfers are fixed to the substrate using a special high temperature casing surrounding the item and hooks into place. The substrate is then placed in a convection oven for a long period of time, typically 12-15 minutes. The wrappers are available in more and can be used for products such as cups, pet food bowls, cookie jars, etc. Finally, a rotating press , also known as a calendar press, is a continuous feeding unit used for fabric pressing when exiting a roll-style sublimation printer. The fabric passes through a series of heated rollers that also press sublimation. It is typically used for pressing large-volume fabrics. Other news about sublimation While working to become an experienced printer of dye sublimation, you may come across one or more obstacles such as the transfer coming out blurry, opaque or faded. FULL STORY The gaiters have been the subject of much speculation lately as the nation continues to address the COVID-19 pandemic and find safe ways to protect citizens from it. FULL STORY My experience in the industry has led me to a realization on many decorated clothing stores: they don't charge enough money for their offerings. This is usually the result of fear that they won't land a job if they charge too much. FULL STORY So, you're entering the wonderful world of t-shirt production and custom garments – it's exciting! You may wonder which method of decoration of the garment is best: heat transfer paper or

sublimation printing? The answer is that both are great! However, the method you go by depends on your needs and what you are trying to do. In addition, each method has its advantages and disadvantages. We try to dig into the details to help you decide what is the right solution for you and your business. The basics of heat transfer paper So, what exactly is heat transfer paper? Heat transfer paper is a special paper that transfers printed designs to shirts and other clothing when heat is applied. The process involves printing a project on a sheet of heat transfer paper using an inkjet or laser printer. Then, you place the printed sheet on the t-shirt and press it using a thermal press (in some cases, a domestic iron will work, but hot presses provide the best results). After pressing, the paper comes off and the image adheres well to the fabric. Great: now you have a custom t-shirt! It was easy, wasn't it? The decoration of the garment by heat transfer paper is super easy and involves one of the starting costs, if not the lowest, in the industry. In fact, many decorators start using nothing but the printer they already have at home! Some other important notes on heat transfer paper are that most it works on cotton and polyester fabrics - while you will learn that sublimation only works on polyesters. In addition, heat transfer cards are designed to work for dark or light-colored clothing, while sublimation is exclusively for white or light-colored clothing. Ok, how about sublimation The sublimation process is quite similar to that of heat transfer paper. Like heat transfer paper, the process involves printing a a special sheet of paper, in this case sublimation paper, and pressing it on a garment with a thermal press. The difference lies in the science behind sublimation. Ready to take science-y? The sublimation ink, when heated, passes from a solid to a gas that is incorporated into the polyester fabric. When it cools, it returns to a solid and becomes a permanent part of the fabric. This means that the transferred design does not add any extra layer to the top, so there is no difference in feel between the printed image and the rest of the fabric. This also means that the transfer is incredibly durable and, under normal conditions, the images you produce will last as long as the product itself. Bonus! Sublimation not only works on polyester fabrics, but also works on a wide variety of hard surfaces with a poly-coating. This opens up a whole new world of items that you can customize: coasters, jewelry, mugs, puzzles and much more. Heat transfer paper versus sublimation By now, we hope you have paper support for heat transfer and sublimation, so let's move on to the crux of the matter and compare these two methods of garment decoration in some important areas. Start-up costs and equipment requirements Garment decoration by paper for heat transfer is one of the least expensive methods for starting. To get started, you'll need an inkjet or laser printer (which you might already have), a thermotax, heat transfer paper, and the shirts or garments you'd like to decorate. That's all! A hobbyist thermotax will typically make you about $300, and this will be your biggest initial investment. If you don't already have a printer, we recommend an inkjet to boot, such as the Epson Stylus Photo C88. Sublimation comes at a higher start-up cost than heat transfer paper, but that cost has dropped significantly in recent years. Initial sublimation packages such as Sawgrass Virtuoso SG400 contain everything you need to start sublimating - minus thermostatization - at a very affordable price. This includes the sublimation printer, sublimation paper, essential software, and a package of product samples that you can sublimate. Outside of that, all you need is a thermotax, and a hobbyist thermal press starts around $300. For more information and help you choose your first sublimation printer, check out our other blog, Which Sawgrass sublimation system is right for you? Duration and sublimation feel use a process in which ink becomes part of the fabric rather than adding a layer on top. This results in a that is unmatched in both duration and sensation. On the other hand, heat transfer paper adds a layer over the head. This additional layer can be felt physically and is less resistant than sublimation and can become faded and cracked over time with numerous washing cycles. It is important to note that heat transfer cards are not created in the same way, and and you'll find some that offer a softer feel and longer life than other transfer cards. For people just starting out with an inkjet printer, we recommend JET-PRO Soft Stretch for its soft texture and durability. Types of garments that you can decorate with sublimation, you are more limited in the types of fabrics you can decorate than heat transfer paper. First, sublimation works only with polyester fabrics. No 100% cotton! This is because sublimation ink binds only to polyester material. You can get away with sublimating some poly-cotton mixtures, but the transfer won't be as bright and vibrant as when you use 100% polyester. Since sublimation does not add any additional layer above the fabric, the material must also be white or very clear to show your transfer. On the other hand, with heat transfer paper, you can decorate on mixtures of light cotton and dark color, polyester and cotton-poles. While heat transfer paper can be the clear winner on the types of fabrics (material and color) that can be decorated, remember that sublimation can also be used on a wide range of hard and soft surface substrates. For the most part, heat transfer paper can't. Other factors to consider the colors you can produce sublimation allow you to print full colors, which is especially nice if you want to print photos or have customers who need a very specific color (for example for a company logo). Depending on the type of heat transfer paper you use - inkjet or laser - you may not be able to get the same color and photo quality transfers as with sublimation. For photo-quality prints with heat transfer paper, the best solution will generally be inkjet paper for light colored clothing or laser heat transfer paper printed with an OKI white laser toner printer. For more information on this topic, check out our other blog, 3 things you need to know before buying heat transfer paper. The sublimation of the disastrate is also naturally self-disacing as only the ink is transferred to the fabric. The process is as easy as printing, pressing, peeling! Most heat transfer cards are not self-disassociated, except for two-step laser transfer cards such as FOREVER Laser Dark. With heat transfer paper, a transfer layer brings the print to the garment, and unless you want an obvious background, the shape of the paper on the t-shirt, you will have to cut around the image with or a cutting plotter. On transfer cards for light colored clothing, the transfer layer is clear and mostly invisible, and cutting is optional. However, if you don't cut it, you will be able to physically feel the transfer level even where the image is not present. On one-step transfer cards for dark, un printed areas will show a white background, so cutting is essential. In conclusion, both heat transfer paper and sublimation are wonderful ways to clothing, and what method you choose in the end depends on your needs. We hope this blog has helped you continue your journey towards decorating t-shirts and clothing! If you still have any questions, don't hesitate to contact our successful customer team who are more than happy to help you find the best solution. Call us at (800) 562-7760 or email us at . [secure email].

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