

MICHIGAN

Specialty Paper

Here are some tips our friends at Neenah Paper have developed for users of Inkjet and Laser heat transfer papers. We have reprinted them in their entirety for your convenience.

GENERAL TIPS

- Though not as versatile for hard surfaces as laser printable heat transfer papers, there are inkjet products for puzzles, leather and wood.
- Laser & inkjet can be used on a wide range of fabrics from 100% cotton to 100% synthetic and almost any blend.
- Tan, oatmeal and heather gray are considered dark colors for heat transfer applications. The polymer window of most heat transfers is very noticeable on these colors. The self-weeding products create a better, more professional look.
- Heat transfers can be combined with other art, including embroidery and other embellishments.
- Foil can increase the value of a garment and can hide minor defects. Many heat transfer products are sticky when heated and the foil can be applied to them and it will not stick to unprinted areas of the transfer.
- If you have white in the image being transferred, and your garment is not white, you need to use an opaque product in order to get the white area.

GENERAL TIPS FOR THE HEAT PRESS

- Using a commercial heat press will give the best results.
- Hobby presses should *only* be used on inkjet papers.
- As a rule of thumb do NOT use a hand iron with laser heat transfer paper.
- A temperature probe or gun should be invested in to ensure the true temperature of your heat press. Very much like a home oven, temperatures vary, which may significantly impact the results.
- Keep your heat press clean; Use ironing sheets when pressing garments and substrates.

GENERAL TIPS FOR PRINTING

- Protect the paper in its original wrapper for as long as possible. This will help keep it from losing or picking up moisture. This is particularly important for laser copiers and printers.
- Do not load the paper tray with more paper than will be immediately used.
- The orientation of paper is important. Feed paper into copier short-edge first (i.e., grain long).
- Determining which side is the print side is important. To determine, mark one-side of plain paper and run it through printer, noting which side it prints on.
- Use the bypass tray for laser copier and printers, it will improve the print appearance and reduce the likelihood of the paper jamming in the paper path.

General Tips for Printing continued:

- What if you put the heat-transfer paper in upside-down and melt the coating to the fuser roll?
 - If there is only a small spot, running plain paper through the printer or copier may remove the spot.
 - If it is a large spot, the fuser roll must be accessed and cleaned.



LASER PRINTERS

Printing Tips:

**Protect paper from picking up moisture by keeping it in the packaging until ready for use.*

***Use the bypass tray for loading paper, not the paper tray.*

****JET-OPAQUE® II & 3G JET-OPAQUE® may be used on a laser printer.*

• Run inexpensive copier paper through the printer prior to printing the heat transfer paper. This will help remove any dust or debris.

- Begin with standard paper setting and print the heat transfer paper.
- Using a tissue, lightly rub the printed area. If color rubs off on the tissue, it is not fused.
- If not fused, go to next higher setting, which slows down the printing and increases the heat.
- Repeat step 3 until tissue wipes clean.

**Thicker laser heat transfer papers and larger sizes (i.e., 11x17) require printers with more heat and slower settings in order to fuse the entire area.*



INKJET PRINTERS

Printing Tips:

- Choose the best quality image setting on the computer and print.
- Most inkjet printers default settings are programmed to apply less ink which does not make for a good transfer.
- Some inkjet inks can sublimate and color the transfer back.
- Our inkjet Heat Transfer Papers are designed for; dye, pigment,

sublimation, solvent and eco-solvent.

- Sublimation inks may be used on inkjet heat transfer papers, but are more expensive and not required.
- Good quality bulk ink systems for inkjet printers help ensure the color of the first print matches the last print in a longer run.

GENERAL TIPS AFTER TRANSFER

- For best results choose fabrics with a tighter weave.
- For a softer/smooth feel ('hand') on light fabric transfers, and for longer lasting color, stretch shirts upon completion of transferring images.
- On some inkjet images the image can be further smoothed/softened by applying parchment paper on the final product and repressing for a few seconds.
- Keep permanent markers handy to touchup spots where there is a 'miss' in the ink application on the garment.
- If the transfer appears to be coming off after the first wash, correct the rest of the batch by repressing. Use an ironing sheet to protect the image.