

Performance Polyester Fabric Screen Printing Recommendations

Polyester fabrics, when high heat is applied to it will reach a melting point.

It is especially important to test these garments before printing an entire production.

Special Inks & Printing Required:

Note: Dark Colors attract & retain the highest amount of heat during drying and while stacked after the dryer.

We recommend our printers consider the print facility's internal and outside temperature. This will affect the temperature during printing as well as when the garment passes through the dryer.

Test Sample: It's recommended to run a test garment (in a dark color) before printing the entire run of garments. This will allow you to gauge the temperature of the imprint as it passes through the dryer.

Ink Type: Wicking Mesh is stretchy due to the construction, so it is recommended to use a plastisol additive or an ink specifically used for full synthetic fabrics. The printed surface will be less likely to crack and the imprint will stretch with the fabric.

Ink Application: We recommend a 2-stroke application of ink per color process. Flash in between colors for no more than 10 – 15 seconds. Keep in mind, the heavier the ink coverage applied, the greater chance of puckering around the printed area. Excessive ink coverage will attract more heat during the drying process.

Printing Surface: If your print surface is metal/aluminum, and you have been printing all day, the surface will get hot. Factors, like outside temperature and ventilation through the print facility, may also make the print surface hotter. If this is a factor you contend with, we recommend running a fan on the opposite side of the flash board.

Dryer Temperature: We recommend the dryer temperature be set lower than what you would run 100% cottons and depending on the outside temperature and humidity in your area this can vary settings. Remember, the polyester will attract more heat as it passes through the dryer.

Print Cure Temperature: The follow is a general guide because no dryer is exactly the same. If the dryer temperature is set between 290 – 300 degrees Fahrenheit, the imprinted surface will **likely** cure between 305 – 320 degrees. Keep in mind, the darker the garment color & imprint, the more heat the garment will attract. Adjust your dryer accordingly. Also remember not all inks cure at the same temperature. Check the [manufactures specs](#) for exact cure temperature.

Drying Time: We recommend the fabric be exposed to the dryer for no more than 75 seconds; so the speed of the belt may need to be adjusted. If you have one dryer to do both fabrics, set aside the polyester garments until you have some free space to run once the dryer has cooled to the correct temperature.