PRINT PROCESS GUIDE

UV PRINTING

PRINT PROCESS OVERVIEW

UV PRINTING

UV printing is a form of digital printing that uses ultra-violet (UV) lights to dry or cure ink as it is printed. As the printer distributes ink on the surface of a material, specially designed UV lights follow close behind, curing - or drying - the ink instantly. Unlike traditional printing where the ink dries by absorbing into the material and evaporating into the air, UV inks dry by being exposed to (UV) lights that almost instantly turn the liquid ink into a solid.

Materials do not need to be specifically coated to be UV printed which is why it is a popular and cost effective method of printing.

Benefits

- Print on a wide variety of materials because they don't require a specific coating for UV Printing.
- Durable inks for a long lasting print.

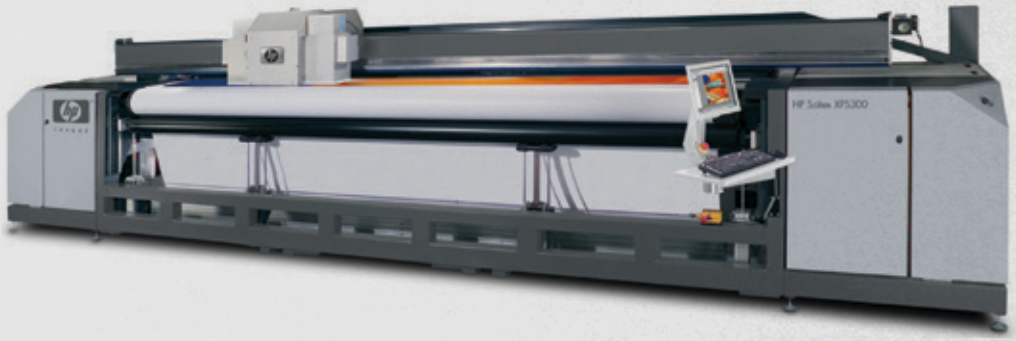
Limitations

- Doesn't achieve high quality on small designs.
- Fabrics/PVC must be rolled instead of folded to avoid damage to the ink.

ROLL TO ROLL PRINTER

HP XP5300

A roll to roll machine will only print ‘directly onto roll materials, such as banner vinyl PVC and mesh. A roll is loaded into the machine, the material feeds through as the head passes back and forth over the material laying down and simultaneously curing the ink. The finished print is then attached to a roll on the front ready for cutting.



Products: PVC banners, mesh banners, black back stretch fabrics.

HYBRID PRINTER

HP FB700, VUTEK QS2000

Hybrid printers can print on rolls as well as flat sheets. Rolls feed through the machine in the same way as a roll to roll machine, but sheets are loaded onto the back supported by loading tables. The vacuum belt pulls the sheet forward as it prints, and the printed sheet then comes out of the front of the machine onto another loading table.

Products: pull up banners, foamex, correx, dibond, exhibition units, foamcore.