

Avery® Instructional Bulletin 4.14

Printing and Finishing of Solvent Inkjet Graphics

When printing and finishing solvent inkjet (MPI) products the following points need to be considered to ensure successful conversion and application.

Printing

- The use of OEM inks is critical in the printing and drying process to avoid effecting the film adversely.
- A minimum of ink should be applied to the material to avoid excess solvent build up without compromising print quality.
- Minimum printing temperatures stated by ink manufacturers both ambient and substrate must be followed.
- Ink drying is dependant on ambient temperature and humidity. Therefore drying times can vary dramatically depending on prevailing conditions.
- When designing graphics, an unprinted border of approximately 10mm – 20mm should be incorporated into the graphic to minimise the potential of edge curl occurring.
- It should not be assumed that a print is ready for finishing once it is dry to touch.
- Trimming of the printed graphic should not be attempted until the ink has had sufficient time to completely dry.
- If trimming to an edge or into a printed area, the ink must be completely dry and not just touch dry. Trimming of this sort whilst the ink is still wet will ultimately cause edge curl and/or adhesive failure.

Note: Solvent ink is not sufficiently dry for finishing if the printed graphic has a strong solvent odour.

Overlaminating

For extended durability and scuff resistance an Avery digital overlaminate (DOL) film or screen printable clear should be used. See Instructional Bulletin 4.06 for processing tips. Printed decals must only be overlaminated after the ink is completely dry.

Substrate Cleaning and Preparation

For preparation and cleaning of substrates the pre-cleaning and final cleaning process outlined in Instructional Bulletin 1.01 must be followed.

Application

- Always test painted surface for suitability by applying masking tape to an inconspicuous area and removing quickly. If any paint is removed pressure sensitive materials should not be applied.
- Ensure all application tools are in good condition.
- When applying tiled graphics begin with the lowest tile and finish with the highest tile.
- When applying tiled graphics to vehicles ensure the tile closest to the rear of the vehicle is applied first, working towards the front of the vehicle.
- Apply pressure to the graphic during and after application to ensure correct adhesion and performance of pressure sensitive materials.
- Follow all Occupational Health & Safety regulations.

For further information, contact your local Avery Graphics representative.