

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET**SHORT DESCRIPTION:**

Watercolor inks are a plastisol replacement for water-based inks. Instead of dealing with ink drying in the screen and excessive dryer time and temperature, Watercolor will give you that soft feel in an easy-to-use plastisol formula.

QUICK SPECIFICATIONS:**MESH COUNT**
125 to 230

This is simply a recommendation as numerous factors including softness, opacity, and whether you are printing with a discharge base will greatly affect your screen mesh choice. The detail of your art work is also an important factor.

**FLASH CURE**
N/A

Watercolor is formulated for wet-on-wet screen printing. Using a flash cure unit between colors is usually not necessary or recommended. Watercolor should “wick” into the fabric, allowing the next color to be printed with very minimal pickup.

**INK CURING**
320°F to 330°F

Washing and drying your prints to check durability is the ultimate test of ink curing. However, the use of Thermolabels is the most sensible method of testing for your day-to-day operations. This will help you prevent cracking, peeling, and washout.

**SQUEEGEES**
80 Durometer

Squeegees are one of many variables controlling your ink deposit. Softer squeegees are capable of printing thicker while hard squeegees allow for better print resolution. 60 durometer is soft. 70 durometer is medium. 80 durometer is hard.

**CLEAN UP**
PW-4 or IR-26

Many cleaning products will remove plastisol ink. We recommend SaatchiChem PW-4 for cleaning on-press. The IR-26 is ideal when cleaning in a washout booth. Cleaning the ink out of the screen immediately after printing is always recommended.



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WATERCOLOR BENEFITS:

- Extremely soft-hand feel.
- Better opacity compared to standard water-based ink.
- “Wicks” into the fabric for easy wet-on-wet screen printing.
- Allows for a “vintage” look on dark fabrics.
- Covers light to medium colors without the need for a discharge base.
- Will not dry in the screen like water-based inks.

IDEAL CURING GUIDELINES:

Cure Watercolor ink at the temperatures listed below (measure with a Thermolabel). Curing is a time and temperature process. A lower temperature with a slower belt speed is always the best method.

100% Cotton	Poly/Cotton	Polyester	Nylon/Stretch	100% Nylon	Polypropylene	Rayon
320°F	320°F	X	X	X	X	X

*Discharge base is always recommended on dark fabrics unless you desire a worn or vintage appearance. We do not offer discharge inks due to health concerns.

TIPS AND TRICKS:

- It is important to print Watercolor inks on high quality fabrics. If you have a soft tee, the print will feel that much softer. An inexpensive poly/cotton tee will not feel as soft.
- Test light, medium, and dark fabrics so you can get an idea of the opacity limitations of Watercolor ink. It may be hard to predict the vintage effect until you have experienced many different ink colors and mesh counts.

Always perform a pretest print and test cure conditions on the fabric to be printed to establish the best results. Stir inks vigorously before each use. Viscosity may need adjusting for best results. If there is ever a question about a print job, call us at 800-942-4447. We are always happy to help!