

There are 4 types of “stamp marks / press marks” that can appear on a shirt after pressing:

- A. **Marks from the transfer paper.** Put a ½” thick felt pad under the garment to elevate it. It should be bigger than the design, but SMALLER than the size of the paper. This way, the transfer paper hangs over the felt pad, and doesn’t make stamp-marks from the edge of the paper digging into the fabric, because it overhangs the pad. Here’s a good example of excellent material to use: <http://www.heatpress.com/product.php?pn=211>
- B. **Marks from the bottom rubber pad support.** Round off the edges of the bottom rubber silicone pad on the press. Use a hand-grinder / hand-sander and chamfer/round off the sharp edge so it is soft, smooth, tapered, radiused. Then there won’t be an instant sharp drop-off in pressure causing a press-mark / stamp-mark in the shirt. A soft drop in pressure results in a softer mark or lack thereof in the shirt surface.
- C. **Discoloration of the fabric from the heat.** Some dyes and fabrics, especially COLORED shirts, will react to heat and shift in color. A lighter shade of the color is typical after pressing when this is an issue. Sometimes, the color and garment overall will recover after a few hours, and setting the garment aside and looking at it later in the day in a different light will reveal the issue was only temporary. If the color shift remains, you must find the highest temperature that does not do this, by lowering the temperature setting in 25 degree increments. Raise the time setting to compensate for this. Often times, that particular shade/dye/shirt simply will not work with the transfer settings/recipe/requirements and a different shirt brand & dye must be used.
- D. **“Searing/Scorching” of the fabric from the heat.** Some soft & sensitive fabric will have a shiny surface everywhere it has been heated, due to a Scorching/Searing effect of the heat platen on the material. Velvet, Suede, and other similar surfaces will be seared and flattened to an undesirable appearance. This is just the nature of pressing this material at the temperature the transfer or applique requires. A BOTTOM HEAT Platen/Attachment is an excellent solution to this issue. A Bottom heat platen (not available on all presses - contact the factory) allows the top heat to be turned down or turned off. The heat comes from the underside of the fabric, draws the adhesive through the fabric for excellent adhesion, and there is no direct heating or searing/scorching of the surface from the top side.

For Sublimation “stamp marks / press marks” onto sensitive Polyester Fabric, from transfer paper edge lines & bottom padding lines:

Use the Vapor Foam Pad method to successfully avoid both issues. Contact your sublimation shirt supplier or Vapor Apparel for the Vapor Foam Padding. This inexpensive padding allows for very soft-touch, light-pressure treatment of sensitive fabrics.

These steps will guarantee no paper lines, and no bottom padding lines:

1. Cut the Vapor foam pad to a size SMALLER than the outer edges of your transfer paper, and LARGER than the sublimation ink image area.
2. Press the machine with light pressure, so that the vapor foam pad is only compressed 50%. Do not FULLY Compress the vapor foam pad. Make sure the transfer paper hangs past the edges of the vapor foam pad.