

Sublimation “Ghosting” and Shrinking issues when printing:

When getting a double-image doing sublimation printing, there are several causes for this, however this is always occurring at the END of the printing cycle. When the press opens, the transfer paper moves, or the fabric moves/shrinks, or more likely the fabric SHRINKS and contracts and the paper is still sublimating and printing its inks, even after the press opens. This happens a lot more with short pressing times, versus longer pressing times (that get more ink out of the paper).

First issue: The fabric is Moving/SHRINKING after the press opens up. The transfer continues to send inks onto the fabric, in a different spot. Thus the DOUBLE-IMAGING / Ghosting effect.

Solution: Extend your pressing times longer. This will get more ink off the transfer paper, and there will be less ghosting effect. Do a pressing at 70 seconds, and take note of the results. ALSO – try pre-pressing the shirt (in-between cover sheets of craft/newsprint) and then do the transfer. Prepressing all the moisture out and pre-shrinking the shirt is also a huge help.

Second issue: The transfer paper is moving. As the press opens, the paper can “float” and land in a new position and continue to sublimate.

Solution: Tacky paper tends to be the ideal solution for paper shifting, AS WELL AS Fabric Shrinkage. Sublimation Tacky Paper keeps everything in place, the paper doesn’t move, the shirt doesn’t shrink and move under the paper – everything stays together.

Important Note: LONGER PRESSING TIMES will exhaust the inks from the transfer paper. This means at the end of the cycle, when the press opens up, even if the fabric shrinks or the paper moves, all the ink is spent and there is no risk of ghosting. This is why it is best to decrease the temperature by 20-30 degrees (to avoid overcooking/scorching), and raise the time by up to 30 seconds for fabrics. Ink penetration is better, more ink is in the fabric, and the transfer doesn’t have any ink left at the end of the longer cycle. Moreover, the lower temperature is more gentle on the fabric and there is less shrinkage on the fabric. Lower temps, longer times make for a far better quality and 100% consistent production!