

WHITE INK UV FLATBED

It is possible to use white ink in a variety of useful and creative ways-it can be printed as a solid area or applied as a tint or gradation. While some intended uses require no prepress intervention, some preparation is necessary for spot and shape white printing. The prepress procedures are not complicated, but they do need to be done in a specific way to ensure success at the printer.

Understanding White Ink: White in 5 Varieties

The application of white ink can be divided into 5 categories for easier understanding. Following is a brief description of each one.

Pre-Coat Flood:

This mode applies white ink to the substrate first, followed by CMYK inks printed on top. The dimensions of the area to be coated is determined by the dimensions of the file itself. This mode does not require prepress intervention; Pre Coat flood is selected at the press by the operator. Typically used for printing on coloured stock.

Post-Coat Flood:

This mode applies CMYK ink to the substrate first, followed by White ink printed on top. The dimensions of the area to be coated is determined by the dimensions of the file itself. This mode does not require prepress intervention; Post-Coat flood is selected at the press by the operator. Typically used for mirrored printing on clear stock, with white ink acting as a backer or diffuser.

Pre-Coat Shape:

This mode of White can be applied to the substrate with some prepress work ahead of time. File preparation is the same as post-coat white. Whether the White is under the CMYK or on top of it is determined at the press.

Post-Coat Shape:

This mode of White can be applied to the substrate with some prepress work ahead of time. File preparation is the same as pre-coat white. Whether the White is under the CMYK or on top of it is determined at the press.

Spot White:

In this instance, white ink prints at the same time as CMYK inks. Areas of White are knocked out of the CMYK areas in the file. The spot white mode can also be used to print an image, text or shape entirely with white ink. If a shape is required, such as a logo or type on a coloured or clear substrate, this needs to be prepared using the Spot White instructions.

Prepress Procedures for Creating White Ink Data:

In normal printing processes, white data areas in image files are translated as <none> or the absence of ink. The white paper, or ground, serves as white in the process printing. When printing on non-white stock, a white layer needs to be applied first, or last in the case of clear material.

Prepressing white ink will require typing the name "White_Ink". The naming convention, including upper and lower case usage is important if it is to be successful. This name for a spot white will be intercepted in the RIP. It is recommended to build white in the same program as the final print document.

For more in-depth information please refer to the "White Ink Setup & File Prep" pdf on our website.