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Mounting of inkjet prints on Acrylic or Polycarbonate Sheets

Acrylic or Polycarbonate Sheet is widely used as a substrate for back or face mounting of prints. However, Acrylic or Polycarbonate sheets retain moisture. Moisture can be trapped between the different layers of the print, over-laminating or mounting films and the Acrylic substrate.

As a consequence, small bubbles may occur on face mounted prints or sandwiched transparencies. Even wrinkles may occur in the print. This phenomenon is mainly temperature and relative humidity dependant and therefore certain precautions should be taken to minimise this effect.

1° Acrylic/Polycarbonate sheets must be dust and grease free before mounting. Please follow the Manufacturers instructions for cleaning techniques. For best results, cleaning must be performed after removal of the protective masking paper from the Acrylic sheet.

2° Pre-heating of the Acrylic/Polycarbonate sheet at temperatures above 50°C for several hours before mounting will eliminate most of the moisture content of the sheet.

3° Mounting of the print must follow within the hour after preheating to prevent the Acrylic/Polycarbonate sheet re-absorbing moisture from the air. Do not use the “wet method” to mount prints.

4° Store the completely mounted print at room temperature and at a relative humidity of max 55%. This should prevent moisture to expand into the adhesive layer showing small bubbles.

5° If used outdoors, the edges of the print should be sealed or the protective film should be folded around the back of the substrate in order to avoid re-absorption of moisture. Please keep in mind that temperature variations may cause condensation on the laminated prints

6° A polymeric plasticized over-laminating PVC film is preferred if the mounted print will be mainly used outdoors.