

Paper conditioning

Paper dimensions are very sensible to humidity variations, as cellulose fibres are very hygroscopic (“water loving”) and oriented in the machine direction. That’s why we supply paper in water-proof packaging, usually involving a plastic film (polyethylene) or a plastified kraft paper. In this way we make sure that flatness, curling and dimensional stability are kept under control.

Once the packaging is opened, a moisture exchange can take place between the paper and the environment. An imbalance in humidity can cause different problems.

Paper not properly conditioned may give more problems of waviness, curling, ink drying, picking, delamination, misregister...

Recommendations

Paper needs to be acclimatized to the pressroom temperature before opening the packaging. It may need between 24 and 48 hours, depending on the volume of the stacks or reels and the difference in temperature between the warehouse and the pressroom.

Don’t open packaging until going to press.

If you need to cut paper, don’t do it too long before printing it. And rewrap the cut paper if you are not going to use it shortly.

Cover paper stacks with plastic film between passes and rewrap any unused material.

Don’t open more palets than necessary for the job.

Ideally pressrooms should be conditioned to:

- 50 (\pm 5) % relative humidity and
- 23 (\pm 2) °C temperature.

In any case, extremes of temperature and humidity must be avoided.

Before starting a production run, check that the printability is correct on both sides of 30 - 50 sheets.

It is prudent for the lithographer to test both sides of the paper at the beginning of each job to verify print quality. We recommend a minimum of 40 sheets be printed on each side to insure print quality meets customer requirements.

Manufactured to pH neutral conditions, papers preserve all its qualities over time.

Information provided is accurate to the best of our knowledge but it does not constitute a guarantee.

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