HOW TO SUBLIMATE PRINT: FABRIC

What the Creative Studio supplies:

Sawgrass SG1000 Sublimation Printer

- 3.5"x9.125" Mug Size is $0.50/sheet
- 8.5"x11" Letter Size is $1.00/sheet
- 8.5"x14" Legal Size is $1.50/sheet

Heat Presses w/ Parchment Paper

- 10"x12" Cricut EasyPress for flat items

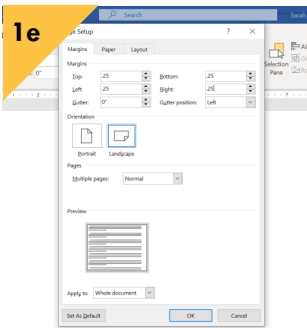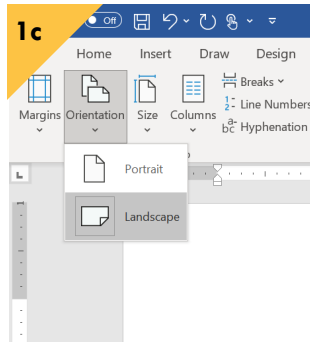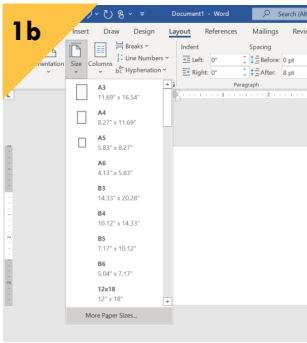## What you need:

A "Sublimation Blank" or "Substrate"

- This is an item made from polyester
    - Minimum 65% polyester
    - White or light colors
- Cricut Infusible Ink or JP Plus are recommended retailers

What is sublimation printing?

Sublimation printing is a special type of printing that allows you to transfer designs from paper to an item using heat. Sublimation printers use dye sublimation ink instead of normal printer ink or toner. When the dye sublimation ink is heated, this ink will evaporate into a steam and absorb into polyester fabric or poly-coated hard surfaces. These items are called "sublimation blanks" or "substrates." This process can be used to transfer photos or other images from the sublimation printer to a mug, shirt, photo panel, and more. Since it is absorbed into the "sublimation blank," the design will last a very long time compared to heat transfer vinyl or inkjet paper transferred images.

Things to consider:

- Make sure your document size matches your paper size when preparing your design
- Item must be labeled for sublimation or be at least 65% polyester
- White sublimation blanks are best
    - The printer does not use white ink. Any part of your design that is white or "see-through" will be the color of your "sublimation blank."
    - The colors of your design will blend with the color of your "sublimation blank"
    - Designs must fit under the 10"x12" Cricut EasyPress

1. Prepare and Print a Design

We recommend using JPEG, JPG, or PNG images in Microsoft Word, but you can use the design software of your choice.

a. Open **Microsoft Word**

b. The default page size is **8.5"x11" Letter** size. If you need to change this, go to the **Layout** tab. Click **Size** and then **More Paper Sizes.**

c. The default orientation is **Portrait.** If you need to switch to landscape, go to the **Layout** tab. Click **Orientation** and then **Landscape.**

d. In **Layout**, click **Margins** and then **Custom Margins.**

e. Set all margins (Top, Bottom, Right, and Left) to be 0.25". Click **OK**. *Note: We can't print to the edge of the paper and need to leave a small margin.*

f. In the **Insert** tab, click **Pictures** then **From this Device**. Find, select, and insert a picture using the pop-up File Explorer.

g. Resize or move image or add text as needed.

h. Save your file to a USB. Set up an appointment with the Creative Services Coordinator to print and heat your project. Your design must be **<u>mirrored</u>** when printing.

2. Heat the Design onto your Sublimation Blank

a. Turn on the Cricut EasyPress to pre-heat to 385°F. The power button will change from red to green when heated. Set the timer for 60 seconds.

b. If your fabric is wrinkly, iron out the wrinkles using the Cricut EasyPress. We also recommend lint rolling.

c. Place a piece of parchment paper inside your shirt or bag so the ink does not bleed into the bottom layer.

d. Lay the image face down on the polyester and use heat-resistant tape to place it exactly where you want the design. *Note: You must use **heat-resistant tape** and not regular tape.*

e. Cover the sublimation blank with a layer of parchment paper to prevent the ink from bleeding onto the heat press. *Note: **Do not** use Teflon sheets.*

f. Place the Cricut EasyPress on top of the parchment paper, start the timer, and step away. Note: Do not press or move the EasyPress since this can cause the image to blur.

g. Pick up the EasyPress after 45 seconds. Remove the parchment paper and sublimation print.

Additional Info about Sublimation Printing

Sublimation printing works best with white polyester fabric because the ink can be absorbed directly into the fabric. The colors will blend with the fabric. If it's polyester but not white, your image might look different. For non-polyester or non-white materials, we recommend a base material called Siser EasySubli Heat-Transfer Vinyl.

Sublimation Printing also works with sublimation mugs with our Cricut Mug Press and other "sublimation blanks" like coasters and photo panels.