HOW TO SUBLIMATE PRINT: MUGS

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/ Butcher Paper

- 10”x12” Cricut EasyPress for flat items
- Cricut Mug Press for straight-wall 11-15oz mugs

What you need:

A “Sublimation Blank” or “Substrate”

- This is an item made from polyester or specially coated to absorb the sublimation ink
- 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”
- Items must fit under the Cricut EasyPress or Mug Press
  - No tumblers or latte mugs

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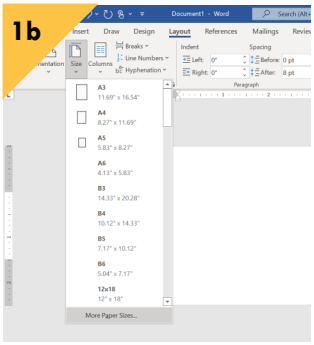

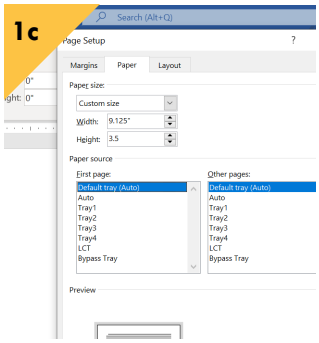

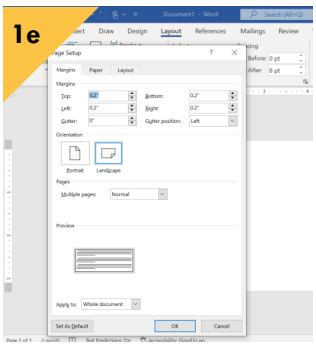

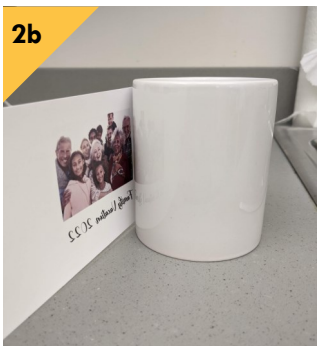

Tips for fabric sublimation blanks?

Sublimation prints can also be used to make shirts and other fabric items. Sublimation prints can be transferred directly to polyester fabrics. The material needs to be a minimum of 65% polyester. If you have a non-white shirt, the colors will blend together. For instance, if you have a yellow polyester shirt with a blue sublimation print, your design will become green.

For non-polyester or non-white materials, we recommend a base material called Siser EasySubli Heat-Transfer Vinyl.

1. Prepare and Print a Design

Your design or image must be a **JPEG, JPG,** or **PNG.**

a. Open **Microsoft Word**

b. Open the **Layout** tab. Click **Size** and then **More Paper Sizes.**

c. Change the **Width** and **Height** to match the printer paper. If you are making a mug, the width is 9.125" and the height is 3.5." Click **OK.**

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

e. Set the Top and Bottom margins to 0.1". Set the Left and Right margins to 0.5". Click **OK.** *Note: The maximum heat surface for the Mug Press is 8.75" x 4.25".*

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 use the equipment. Your design must be **mirrored** when printing.

2. Heat the Design onto your Sublimation Blank

a. Turn on the Mug Press to pre-heat to 400°F. The power button will change from red to green when heated.

b. Line the print up on your sublimation blank 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.*

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

d. Slide the mug into the Mug Press face up. Do not put it in upside down.

e. Lower the lid to close the Mug Press around the mug. A **5-minute timer** will begin to blink.

f. Remove the mug when all 5 buttons on the timer are solid. Place the mug on a hot pad. *Note: **NEVER** place it on a cool surface or under cold water.*

3. Cool Down and Peel

a. Let your item cool for 10 minutes.

b. Remove the butcher paper, print paper, and tape.

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