

Printing, Cleaning & Applied Surfaces

Precautionary measures

We suggest testing first before installing the combination of eggshell paint on a textured surface. Eggshell paint was mainly used in the kitchen and has intentional additives that allow it to be cleaned with detergents like 409, fantastic, soft scrub. Photo Tex does have the ability to stick to this paint, however, when the paint has been applied to a textured surface, then basically only 50% of the adhesive is touching the actual surface. In some cases, this type of surface combined with eggshell paint can make it touchy for the material to work. We do offer a product to handle these surfaces branded **Photo Tex EX and EXS** (High Tack) which is a 50% Stronger adhesive (still removable) and great for more permanent installs. In addition the **(OPA/OPAS)** Opaque Block-outs may work with slightly texture walls and all paints as it is 10% stronger than the Original version. All the Photo Tex adheres to Low no VOC paints but it is best to use the Opaque or High Tack versions. Please make sure you read Install Suggestions    Below are pictures of textures walls that are pushing the limits. Flat painted brick will not be an issue with any of the material versions.



It is very important that you allow at least 30 days for a newly paint surface to dry. Bubbles or failure can occur if the paint is still outgassing/flashing off. Also make sure all drywall painted surfaces or a repainted surface **have been primed** and painted in order to not leave possible residue or remove paint.

The above information rarely occurs, but we feel it is important to understand the materials limits based on certain printers and surfaces that we have tested over the past 16 years. We are always happy to send a free sample for testing concerning any of the above suggestions. We are happy to answer any questions. Just e-mail us at www.phototexgroup.com and simply ask for a test sample roll.

Surfaces other: - Please make sure you only use the Original version on Metal or Glass surfaces as the Opaque can leave (mainly in Cold weather) residue. We have great success with steel or aluminum elevator doors using the original versions. Also we do not recommend any of our material be applied to copper, brass or varnished wood, as these areas can oxidize and can leave a residue film.

UV & Latex inks : When printing with UV ink or mainly UV curable printers with lamps, it is possible in rare cases to overheat the material and cause the adhesive to weaken up to 50% during the printing process. Although this is very rare, it is important to keep the lamps at a very low setting than most other substrates. We recommend you compare the adhesive from a printed piece to a non-printed piece from the same roll. You can easily tell if the adhesive was overheated or weakened during printing. Touching the adhesive material will not give you a true reading. You need to place the pieces on a wall for 24hrs and see if there is curling and then pull on and off the wall a few times and see if there is any tack (there should be some adhesive resistance). You can also peel back the top half and let it hang and gravity should not take over and it shouldn't start to fall off the wall, – compared to a none printer piece. You will know it has been over heated. As for LATEX inks - make sure the heat setting is between 190-195 degrees, otherwise it can affect the adhesive (make is bubble).

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UV or UV Curable Inks ONLY- Continued

In addition, with UV inks, if you lay down an extremely heavy, solid, (dark colors) when bleeding, the weight of the ink actually can pull against the material (acting like an over laminate). This happens because UV ink actually sits on top of the material adding weight. In rare cases, you may need to leave a small border in order to prevent curl – this is for UV inks only. We still suggest you test this with all UV inks, just to be safe. An easy way to test this is to leave your printed sample up for 24-36 hours. If the edges do not curl, the material was then unaffected and should not be a issue over time. Make sure your using the new S-Up version for outdoor and high traffic areas as this replaced the (S) Solvent version in Mid 2019.

Cleaning

Walls: Make sure you only use a damp rag when cleaning a surface before installation and always use a squeegee when installing the Opaque versions. DO NOT USE any chemicals (alcohol) when cleaning , just a damp warm rag and dawn soap if needed.

Ink/Material: UV Inks are ok to wipe down with a damp cloth. Water Base inks are very durable in traffic but not cleanable. Latex inks are semi-durable and used in many indoor installs but not cleanable unless your using the upgraded S-UP water proof coating material (ask for details at phototexgroup.com contact page. The solvent and eco-solvent inks are not at all cleanable unless again using the S-Up version.

INSTALLATION DISCLAIMER & PRECAUTION: Due to all the variables of the wall surface and recently the (NEW) paints, along with choosing the correct PHOTO TEX versions. Our products should not be installed within a distance in which Infant/children sleep and/or occupy without continuous adult supervision.