

SUBCRAFTS

Sublimation The Basics



www.subcrafts.com



Hello there!

When I started on my journey into Dye Sublimation, Google and Youtube were (and still are) my best friends. I also joined Facebook groups to gather some tips. The main thing I have learned - PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT. Don't give up, continue to practice and learn! These tips are what I have learned along the way, and continue to follow and refer to, so why not share to help others grow!!

Trishia Alicea

Founder, Subcrafts LLC and FTC Designs, LLC



What is SUBLIMATION?



Let us start with the first question many have, "What the heck is sublimation??"

Sublimation (also known as Dye Sublimation) is the process of transferring a design onto a material using heat and pressure. In scientific terms, Sublimation is the transition of a substance directly from a solid state to a gas state. It does not pass through the usual liquid state, and only occurs at specific temperatures and pressures. It is not like HTV, sublimation becomes a part of your item, whereas HTV sits on top of your item and can not withstand the high heat needed for sublimation.

*KEYNOTE: There is
NO WHITE in
sublimation
printing.*



01 SUBLIMATION PRINTER

02 SUBLIMATION INK

03 SUBLIMATION PAPER

04 HEAT PRESS

05 SUBSTRATE (BLANKS)

06 COMPUTER/ TABLET

07 SOFTWARE TO DESIGN IN

*Be sure to
check out the
Bonus
Section!*

01. Sublimation Printer



You need sublimation ink- not your regular inkjet printer ink. Here are just a few:

- Sawgrass SG500/1000
- Epson Surecolor F570, F170, F6470
- Epson Ecotank (these are converted to sublimation ink, learn more and how in our other eBook)
- Epson Workforce (converted to sublimation ink)

02. Sublimation Ink



If you purchase a printer that is specifically for (Dye) Sublimation, ink will be provided and/or the manufacturer will provide details of the type of ink to purchase.

It is really easy to find the best place to purchase ink that works for you and within your budget.

03. Sublimation Paper



This is the tricky part 😊

Everyone that you talk to, and I mean EVERYONE, will have their preference of sublimation paper that they will live and die by! And you too will come to prefer one or another. Just make sure that it IS sublimation paper. Test out some samples, until you find one that works for you. I personally like to use a paper that has an indication (usually a logo) of the non-print side.

04. Heat Press



A budget Heat Press can be found on Amazon, or retailers such as Heat Press Nation, etc. Even an easy press can be used. Just make sure the heat press temperature can go up to 400 degrees Fahrenheit. For tumblers and mugs, a basic convection oven may also be used or a sublimation specific oven, just remember to use it **ONLY** for sublimation and not for cooking.

05. Blanks (Substrate)



The wonderful thing about sublimation is that you can print on sooo many things! The downfall is that the item **MUST** be white or light colored and at least 65% polyester. Try grabbing a polyester fabric roll to practice on, you will thank me later.



06. Computer/ Tablet



Depending on the design software/
what you use to print out the image on
to your sublimation printer (step 07), a
basic laptop will suffice. Cricut may
be used with tablets and even your
phone.

07. Software to Design in



If you aren't ready to dive into designing just yet, that's ok! You can use Etsy or numerous sites to download files or images. Silhouette Studio and Cricut Design Space are free to use. You pull your image in (download) and send it to your sublimation printer. Easy peasy lemon squeezie!!

(Hint hint: Our website also offers some images to purchase)

BONUS SECTION

Accessories (additional help/items)



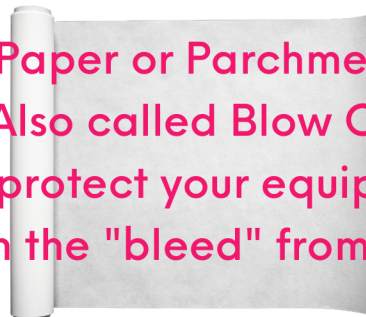
Heat Tape

with tape dispenser,
you'll need quick access
to the heat tape!



Butcher
Paper

Butcher Paper or Parchment Paper-non
waxed. Also called Blow Out Paper.
This will protect your equipment and
help with the "bleed" from the ink.



Tape
measurer,
lint roller

you'll need to make sure everything
lines up, and lint roll, lint roll and lint
roll again! Tiny dust particles, cloth, will
leave a mark on your substrate.

