

How to apply a Heat Transfer

Written by Robin Bull of
Target Transfers



Heat Transfers and CAD-Cut materials

Begin by selecting your garments. The garments you select will determine the best heat transfer material for your project. Let's say your job calls for nylon garments - you'll need to specify a transfer or material specifically made to adhere to nylon.

Now, arrange the garments and applications on your work surface, making it easy for you to continually pull from the appropriate pile. While you are arranging the workspace, turn on your heat transfer press, as it will take around 10-15 minutes to warm up to the necessary temperature. As the press is warming up, set the desired temperature for your application. Many CAD-Cut materials are designed to be applied at 160°C, but be sure to refer to the specific instructions accompanying the transfers or material.

Once the press has reached the appropriate temperature, but before the first garment is decorated, the time and pressure need to be set, again to reflect the material being applied. Once time, temperature and pressure are set, it's time to begin the application process.

Step 1: Insert a Teflon pillow inside your first garment. This prevents marks from heavy seams, zippers and buttons.

Step 2: Pre-heat the garment for 10 seconds. Be sure to place either a Teflon or Kraft paper cover sheet on top of the garment prior to printing. Pre-heating the garments removes wrinkles, whilst preparing the garment for application.

Step 3: Position your lettering or transfer design onto the garment. For an application on the front of the garment, centre the design; say about the width of three fingers below the neck line.

Step 4: Cover the application with a Teflon or Kraft paper cover sheet, close the transfer press and fuse at the temperature and for the duration specified for the material being used.

Step 5: Depending on whether or not your application is a hot-peel or a cold-peel, remove the Mylar carrier or release the paper backing sheet from the design.

Step 6: Once the carrier is removed, if required, re-position the Teflon or Kraft paper cover sheet on top of the design, and proceed with the fusing on the garment for the specified time.

Step 7: Remove the cover sheet from the design and let the garment cool. The application is now completed and ready for the customer.



Magnetic Digital Sprint Press

Application Tips:

Here are a few application tips to consider when heat printing:

- Always pre-heat a garment to remove wrinkles and moisture
- Use a Teflon pillow to prevent marks on the decoration; they are great for v-necks, round necks, or when applying near heavy seams, zippers or buttons

- Keep a reference book of technical sheets for each type of heat applied product that you are using; create a quick reference sheet for fast access
- When working with appliqué, heat sealing your design after sewing prevents puckering, giving you the most professionally finished garment for delivery
- To achieve a smooth surface on a garment, slide the garment over the lower platen so that necklines, collars and hoods are off the back of the platen, allowing for a smooth, flat surface to be decorated

Bio

Robin Bull is MD of Target Transfers Ltd, a GroupeSTAHL Company. Please visit their website or contact them direct for more information.



Robin Bull