



Sublimation and Heat Press Instructions

Introduction

Sublimation printing using a heat press is a popular method for printing high-quality images onto a variety of fabrics. This printing method is best used on products such as polyester apparel in white or light colors or hard surfaces with a poly-coating, such as coasters, mugs, mouse pads and more. With an image as clear as the source, a product made using the sublimation process will sustain its quality throughout the years.

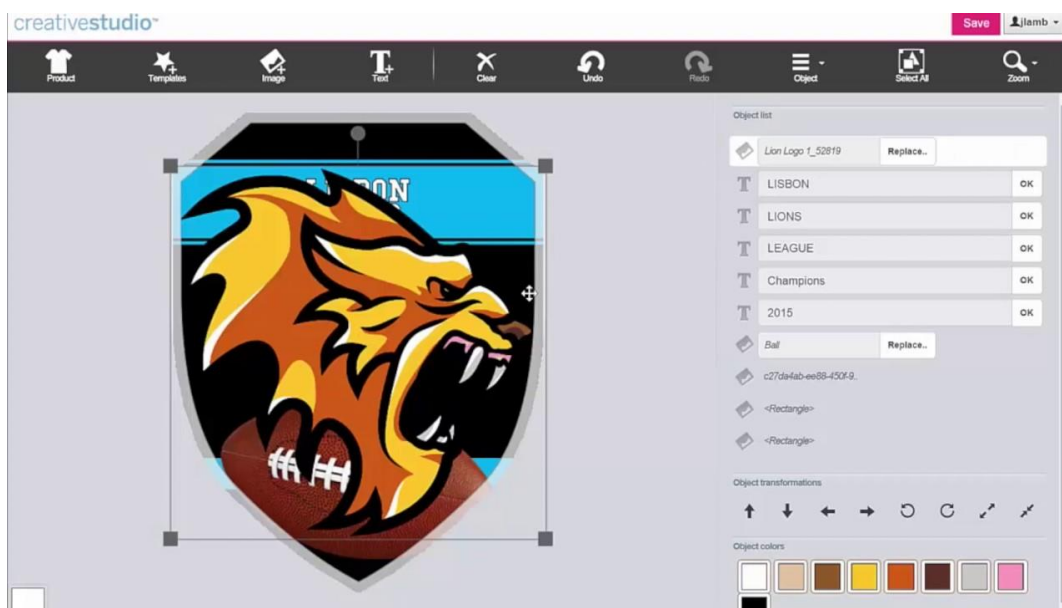
The Oak Ridges library has the equipment to complete the entire process.

How to make - 3 easy steps

Step 1 - Create

First create the design you want using the software Sawgrass Creation Studio. You can sign up for a free Creative Studio account at home on the sawgrass website (www.sawgrassink.com).

The software is easy to use and comes with lots of templates to build your design.



Step 2 - Print

The library has a Sawgrass SG 400 Sublimation Printer that prints the design out.



Step 3 - Press

The library has a CO-Z 5-in-1 Heat Press that lets you transfer the printed design onto your material.



Getting Started

Become Certified

To become certified on this piece of equipment you will need to attend a training class that lasts approximately 30 minutes. By the end of the class you will be able to:

1. Understand safety when using the equipment
2. Print a design on the transfer paper
3. Know which transfer paper/printer to use according to the material being pressed
4. Adjust settings and timer on heat press for specific materials
5. Press transfer designs on various materials

To sign up for a training session, please email bookaskill@rhpl.ca or browse our programming calendar on our website for a training session.

Reserving the equipment

Users will need to be certified before reserving this piece of equipment. Once you have attended the certification training session, you may sign up for a time slot.

To sign up for a time slot, please email bookaskill@rhpl.ca

Reservations will be held for no longer than 15 minutes after the scheduled time, after which the equipment will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Cost

The use of the Heat press and the sublimation printer is free

The cost for each sublimation paper is \$1.00 + HST. Please note that you are only able to print 1 item per 8" x 11" sheet for each transfer.

Consumables

Unless you are in a library program, you are responsible for bringing in your own consumable for transfer at the library.

The following items are deemed safe for heat pressing. This is not a comprehensive list as items are continually added for library users to experiment with. Please note that we are using a sublimation ink, thus colour would not appear very vibrant unless the product is polyester based. In other words, you can expect a lower level of vibrancy on a polyester t-shirt transfer versus one that is done on a 100% cotton t-shirt.

NOTE: any materials used with the heat press must be able to withstand temperatures up to 400 degrees. Rule of thumb: if the material cannot withstand an iron at high heat, do not use it with the heat press.

- Aprons
- Light colored cotton T-shirts
- Light-coloured polyester T-shirts
- Light-coloured cotton/poly blend T-shirts
- Mousepads and mini mousepads
- Canvas bags
- Poly bags

What is provided by the library

The following items are consumables provided by the Richmond Hill Public Library that are available for heat pressing. This is not a comprehensive list. Items are continually added for library users to experiment with.

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Machine Accessories

- Sublimation transfer paper
- Scissors
- X-acto knife
- Cutting mat
- Pigment ink or Sublimation ink
- Teflon sheet
- Gloves or hot pad
- Ruler

- T-square (not included but would be helpful if available)
- Sawgrass G400 Printer
- Refillable Ink Cartridges with bottles of Sublimation Ink
- Syringe for refilling Ink Cartridges
- Heat resistant tape
- Sawgrass Creation Studio (graphic design software)

Important Information: Because the heat press achieves temperatures of 400°+, burn hazards are a risk. As well, please observe proper health and safety procedures when using the scissors and cutting the transfer paper.

Other Approved fabric materials:

- Cotton
- Polyester
- Cotton/polyester blend

Detailed Workflow

1. Get training and certified if not already done.
2. Make a reservation for the equipment.
3. Import your images into Sawgrass Creation Studio software.
4. Edit and/or adjust the size of the images if necessary.
5. Reverse the image.(the mirror image button is set as default)
6. Select the correct printer ink type / transfer paper for fabric material (cotton/polyester/blend).
7. Print the images on the transfer paper.
8. Cut out images.
9. Set temperature, pressure and time on heat press.
10. Prepress to eliminate wrinkles and get rid of moisture.
11. Arrange material on heat press.
12. Place printed, cutout image upside down on the material.
13. If using sublimation, transfer the paper tape down with heat resistant tape.
14. Cover with Teflon sheet.
15. Press material.
16. Remove from press.
17. Remove/peel off transfer paper from material.