

# Printing Technologies

## Solvent

### What is it?

Solvent ink is a dye based ink with a base of solvent. It works by the solvent eating into the material, being evaporated off by heat with the dye left behind in the material.

### What can you print with it?

Solvent inks are a very robust ink type. They can be used for any Roll to Roll media, though they provide poor colours on paper based media.

## Printers that use solvent ink in the building...

Matic Media currently do not operate solvent ink printers.

## Water Based

### What is it?

Water based inks are a dye based ink with a base of water, this means they are ecologically friendly as they are bio-degradable. They work by spraying onto a media, the water quickly evaporating off leaving the pigment in the media.

### What can you print with it?

Water Based inks tend to only work on paper based or treated plastic based medias.

## Printers that use water based ink in the building...

We have a small Canon printer that uses water based inks.

## Dye Sublimation

### What is it?

Dye sublimation is a water based ink that uses heat transfer to transfer pigment to polyester based materials through either a fixation unit or a paper based transfer via a sublimator or a heat press.

### What can you print with it?

Polyester based fabrics.

## Printers that use dye sublimation in the building...

The [Mimaki TX300 mkii](#) uses dye sublimation based inks.

## UV Ink

### What is it?

UV ink is a UV curable ink system which remains liquid until cured with a UV light source. It uses the same technology as white fillings used in dentistry which you may be familiar with. As it is a dry ink system (it instantly dries when cured) it can be used in Roll to Roll and Flatbed printing operations.

# What can you print with it?

Any rigid or flexible material. Some materials require a primer for the ink to "Stick" to the material before printing.

## Printers that use UV ink in the building...

- [Canon Colorado 1650](#)
- [Canon Arizona 660XT](#)
- [Mimaki UJV-55-320](#)

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