

A Guide to Printing Uncoated Paper and Board (continued)

Ink drying time

In theory it would be possible to print 100% (solid) of each of the four colours, giving a coverage of 400%. When printing in four process colours the amount of ink on the paper should not exceed a maximum coverage of 240% in any one area. Keeping overall ink coverage within these parameters reduces the risk of problems associated with rubbing and transference of ink to another page (set off). The way in which ink dries on Uncoated paper can be improved by the common practice of turning and airing paper stacks. Even better performance can be achieved by the use of Fully Oxidising inks. Press Open inks should be avoided.

Choice of weight

Paper weights are the same for Coated and Uncoated paper (measured in g/m² – grammes per square metre); however, the greater bulk or thickness of Uncoated paper means that, generally, a lighter weight can be used to achieve the same volume. Printing on a lighter grammage of Uncoated paper has the added benefit of saving costs on distribution and mailing.

Printing detail

The amount of detail in a picture is more to do with the screen resolution used than the paper it is printed on. In the past, printers have been inclined to use coarser halftone screens (as low as 133 dpi) when printing on Uncoated papers. A screen ruling of 175 dpi will give better detail, provided the repro has been adjusted correctly. Stochastic screens, when available, will give even better detail retention because of the way they map the image more closely.

Suitable images

Illustrative techniques such as watercolour, crayon and pastels are far more complementary to Uncoated paper than Coated as the natural paper texture retains the subtlety of tone better.

The use of one of several undercolour removal repro techniques such as UCR, GCR or PCR helps to improve both the contrast and shape of metallic and highly reflective subjects such as glassware. Keeping the shadows dense, the mid-tones open and the highlights bright increases the illusion of contrast.

Large solid areas of colour will look different on Uncoated paper, but this is part of its surface character and not a printing problem. If you want a totally smooth flat colour, then you have to use a totally smooth or Coated paper. Uncoated paper is neither better nor worse than Coated paper, but it is different in character.

Choosing images that are best suited to the paper is one way of achieving exceptional printed results.

Further information and printed examples may be found in *Old Wives' Tales* – please contact your local Robert Horne representative to request a copy.