



## Frequently Asked Questions

### *What is Screen Printing?*

Screen printing is a printing technique that involves using a stencil or a "screen" to transfer ink onto a surface. The screen is made up of a fine mesh material, such as silk or polyester, which is stretched tightly over a frame. A stencil is then created by blocking out certain areas of the screen to prevent ink from passing through. To print a design using screen printing, the screen is first coated with a layer of photosensitive emulsion. The design to be printed is then placed onto the screen and the screen is exposed to light. The areas of the emulsion that are not exposed to light harden, while the areas that are exposed to light remain soft and can be washed away with water.

After the stencil has been created, the screen is placed onto the surface to be printed, and ink is applied to the top of the screen. A squeegee is then used to press the ink through the open areas of the stencil and onto the surface below. This can be a manual process by human hand or some of our factories use a machine called an Octopus with 8 stations which rotate (much faster than manual hand printing).

The ink is then cured, either by heat or by exposure to ultraviolet light, to create a "permanent" print. The product, for example a T-shirt or fabric bag can then be used and washed. The ink will eventually fade with repeated washing so by turning the item inside out the lifespan of the item and print integrity can be extended.

Screen printing is commonly used to print designs onto a variety of surfaces, including fabrics such as cotton, jute, juco, NWPP or paper, plastic, metal and glass. It is often used to create custom t-shirts, posters, signs, and other promotional materials. It is a versatile printing technique that can produce high-quality, long-lasting prints in large quantities. Usually we use solid pantone C numbers for screen printing and it is best managed on fabric carrier bags by keeping the lines chunky and font size at least size 12.