

Troubleshooting Heat Press Scorching on Polyester

PRE-PRESS

- Confirm fabric content (100% polyester / blend).
- Check transfer/DTF instructions for polyester.
- Test press on scrap or inside hem.
- Clean platen, use Teflon/cover sheet.
- Set temp 270-300°F (132-149°C) unless instructions differ.
- Use light-to-medium pressure.
- Pre-press garment 2-5 sec to remove moisture.

DURING PRESS

- Marks on polyester do not fade over time. Stop pressing immediately if marks are observed.
- Use cover sheet and/or press pillow.
- Split press: two shorter presses instead of one long.
- Avoid heavy pressure on thin polyester.
- Check DTF peel method (warm/cold).

POST-PRESS INSPECTION

- Peel according to product instructions.
- Inspect under light for shine/discoloration.
- If scorch/shiny marks become visible STOP, don't repress immediately.

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE IF SCORCHING OCCURS

These are last minute efforts to save your garment and results are not guaranteed.

- Steam from a distance to relax fibers.
- Gently brush with soft bristle brush.
- Light spray of 1:1 vinegar & water, blot gently.
- Rewash garment per care label.
- Do not re-press hotter or longer.

TO MINIMIZE AFFECTED AREA

- Test heat press with test strips and make sure your press is accurate.
- Raise print area to reduce size of press area by using smaller platens or pads to raise the print area.
- Use the lowest possible heat setting the manufacturer allows.
- Use kraft paper or other heat absorbing cover sheet, avoid Teflon.

SEVERITY GUIDE

Slight shine/gloss Steam + brush → adjust temp/time/pressure → resume.

**Sheen change/
Brown discoloration** Try vinegar + wash. If persists, cover with design.

Melted fibers Permanent damage. Replace garment or cover with patch.

QUICK SETTINGS (Always confirm with supplier)

DTF on polyester 270-300°F (132-149°C), 8-15s, light-medium pressure.

Dye-sublimation 380-400°F (193-204°C), 35-60s, medium pressure.

Plastisol transfers Follow manufacturer instructions.