



# TOP 10 DTF PRINTING SECRETS

Pro Tips for Cleaner Prints,  
Fewer Headaches

# 10 DTF Secrets: Pro Tips for Cleaner Prints, Fewer Headaches

Insider advice to boost print quality, save time and avoid common DTF mistakes.

## Introduction: Why This Guide Matters

Whether you are just getting started or want to sharpen your DTF skills, we've got you covered! From powder to press, small changes can make a big difference in print quality, speed, and consistency. At Xpres, we've helped thousands of customers overcome early hurdles and get the best results.

**Here are 10 tried-and-tested tips that will make your DTF life easier and your prints better.**

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### Invest In The Right Tools

The biggest printing headaches often come from low-quality gear. At Xpres, we only stock reliable, tested equipment from top brands such as Epson, Mimaki, Roland, and Adkins.

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### Humidity Is Very Important

Due to the absorbent nature of the DTF coating, it is extremely susceptible to humidity and moisture. We recommend investing in a humidity reader to ensure the humidity conditions are kept between 35 – 65%.

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### Storing Your Film

Moisture can dramatically affect how the film performs. We recommend that rolls and sheets are stored in their original packaging and sealed between uses. Store away from walls and off the floor.

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### **‘Low and Slow’ Curing**

The secret is ‘low and slow’. Curing your prints and adhesive powder is more effective at a lower temperature with a longer press time. The recommended temperature is 100-120 degrees, and the time will vary depending on the size of your design.

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### **Achieve The ‘Orange Peel’ Cure**

During curing, you need to achieve an ‘orange peel’ effect. This is when the cured adhesive powder looks glossy with a bumpy effect, which resembles the outer skin of an orange!

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### **Signs That You Need To Adjust Your Cure Settings**

There are signs to look out for which will indicate that you need to adjust your cure time and/or temperature. Under-curing will look grainy instead of smooth, and over-curing can lead to the adhesive burning, meaning it will go off-white in colour and cracks/pin pricks can appear on the surface.

7

### **Maintain Your Hardware Like Clockwork**

Completing a nozzle check to make sure your print head has no blocked nozzles at the start of the day is essential to better print output and fewer wasted prints. Be sure to follow maintenance guidelines for curing ovens too. Stick to a routine.

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### **Power Of The Peel**

Whether your film is hot peel or cold peel, we always recommend the same motion. When peeling the print, hold the garment flat and peel in one smooth, fast motion.

A light blue wavy line graphic.  
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### **Second Press? Yes!**


We always recommend second pressing your print with a silicone sheet / teflon sheet once peeled. This is to remove any oiliness and provide a smoother, nicer finish. This also helps to ensure the longevity and durability of the print.

A light blue wavy line graphic.  
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### **Test Every New Batch**

Different garments, films, or powders? Run a quick test to ensure everything is performing as you need it to. Even minor changes in fabric blend or humidity can affect results.

### **Want Even Better Results?**

A yellow wavy line graphic.

We're here to help. Our team can guide you on the best setup for your needs – including DTF printers, powder, films, ovens and heat presses.

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## **PREMIUM DTF SOLUTIONS**

The EPSON logo in blue.The Roland logo, featuring a blue square with a white 'R' and the word 'Roland' in black.The Mimaki logo in red.The Sefa logo in blue.

**VISIT [XPRES.CO.UK](https://www.xpres.co.uk) TO EXPLORE OUR FULL DTF RANGE.**