

Printing Process Comparison Chart:

Advantages of Hot Stamping & Heat Transfer Decorating:

Increased Productivity

Our Hot Stamping/Heat Transfer machines maintain all variables such as temperature, time and pressure. Job parameters are stored and the process is not effected by environmental factors. There is no pre-treatment of parts, ink viscosity monitoring or dry time required for the decorated product.

Multiple Colors in one Step

Heat Transfer utilizes multi-color preprinted images and is applied to the product in one simple machine cycle.

Dry Decorating Method

No ink mixing or clean-up is required or storage of thinners and clean-up solvents. The hot stamp or heat transfer decorated part is immediately ready for handling and packaging.

Variety of Materials

Besides plastic materials, where emphasis is on thermoplastics, thermosets can also be hot stamped. In addition, wood, book cloth, leather, textiles, paper, cardboard and pre-painted metals are stamped with success.

Variety of Decorating Finishes

Hot stamping is the only decorative method where brilliant gold and silver metallic graphics can be produced. Foils are also manufactured in gloss or matte pigment colors, wood grain designs, brushed effects, and chromium for exterior use. Multicolored graphics can be accomplished with pre-printed heat transfers and continuous patterned foils.

Image Attributes	Hot Stamping	Heat Transfer	Pad Printing	Screen Printing
Image Quality: One Color	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent
Image Quality: Multiple color	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent
Image Quality: 4-color process	N/A	Excellent	Fair	Excellent
Opacity	Excellent	Excellent	Poor	Excellent
Abrasion Resistance	Excellent	Excellent	Fair	Fair
Chemical Resistance (application dependant)	Good	Good	Fair	Good
Metallic capabilities	Excellent	N/A	Poor	Poor
Wood Grain/Marble/Holographic	Excellent	N/A	N/A	N/A
Production	Hot Stamping	Heat Transfer	Pad Printing	Screen Printing
Operator Skill Level	Unskilled	Unskilled	Skilled	Skilled
Set-up Skill Level	Semi-skilled	Semi-skilled	Skilled	Skilled
Clean-up	None	None	Messy/Time consuming	Messy
Inks and Solvents	None	None	Yes	Yes
Wet/Dry Process	Dry, No Cure	Dry, No Cure	Wet, Cure time needed	Wet, Cure time needed
Fumes	None	None	Yes	Yes
Surface Pre-treat	None	None	Often	Often
Hazardous Waste Disposal	None	None	Required	Required
Machine Up-time	95%	95%	80%	80%
Various Geometries	Good	Good	Excellent	Fair
Total Cost (per image)	Low	Low	Medium	Medium