



PRINTING INKS

Revision version : 001

Date of revision : 26-Dec-2024

Prepared by : Adisakdi Ch.

Product Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additives for Printing Ink Formulation • Filtration Bags for Printing Manufacturing
Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used in offset ink • Used in flexo ink • Used in gravure ink
Key Function(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance uniformity of printing inks • Improve color and gloss of printing quality • Disperse pigments in printing formulation • Reduce foaming during printing process

Printing inks are specialized liquids or pastes used in the printing process to transfer text, images, or designs onto various surfaces, such as paper, cardboard, plastic, metal, or fabric. They are formulated to adhere to substrates and provide a high-quality, durable print. Printing inks are essential in a wide range of applications, from commercial printing (newspapers, magazines, and books) to packaging and labels.



Types of Printing Inks:

Printing inks can be classified based on their composition, application method, or the type of printing process they are used for. The most common types of printing inks include:

Oil-Based Inks:

- **Composition:** These inks contain oil as the main solvent. The oil could be mineral oil, vegetable oil, or a combination of both.
- **Applications:** Oil-based inks are widely used in offset printing and letterpress printing.
- **Advantages:** They provide a smooth and consistent flow, excellent print quality, and good resistance to fading and wear.
- **Disadvantages:** These inks have a slower drying time and can be more hazardous due to the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which contribute to air pollution.

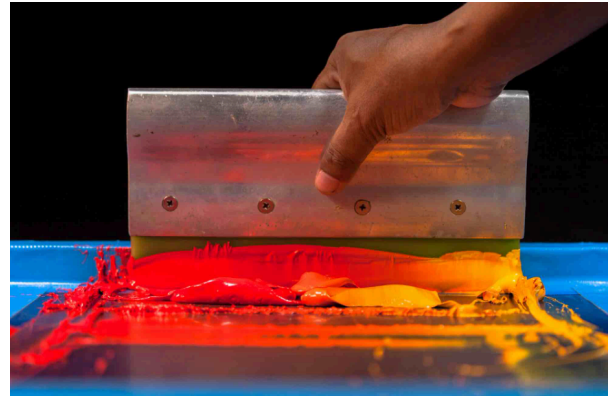
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Water-Based Inks:

- **Composition:** These inks use water as the main solvent, with pigments or dyes suspended in it.
- **Applications:** Commonly used in flexographic printing, screen printing, and gravure printing. They are often used in food packaging and other applications where non-toxic, eco-friendly inks are important.
- **Advantages:** Water-based inks are more environmentally friendly than oil-based inks as they emit fewer VOCs. They also have a faster drying time and are easier to clean up.
- **Disadvantages:** Water-based inks may not be as durable on certain non-porous surfaces (e.g., plastics) without special formulations.



UV Inks (Ultraviolet Inks):

- **Composition:** UV inks contain photoinitiators that allow the ink to cure when exposed to ultraviolet light.
- **Applications:** Used in screen printing, offset printing, flexographic printing, and digital printing.
- **Advantages:** UV inks dry almost instantly when exposed to UV light, resulting in faster production times. They are durable, have excellent color quality, and are highly resistant to fading, smudging, or water damage.
- **Disadvantages:** UV inks often require specialized equipment (UV curing lamps), and they can be more expensive than other ink types.

Solvent-Based Inks:

- **Composition:** These inks use organic solvents such as alcohols or ketones to dissolve the resin and pigments.
- **Applications:** Solvent-based inks are primarily used in flexographic printing and gravure printing, especially for printing on non-porous materials like plastics, films, and metal foils.
- **Advantages:** They provide excellent adhesion and durability on difficult surfaces and are ideal for printing on non-absorbent substrates.
- **Disadvantages:** These inks have higher VOC emissions and require more complex handling and ventilation systems due to the toxicity of the solvents.

Eco-Friendly Inks:

- **Composition:** These inks are formulated to have a minimal environmental impact, typically by reducing the use of harmful chemicals and VOCs. Water-based inks and soy-based inks are common examples.
- **Applications:** Used in eco-friendly offset printing and other sustainable printing practices.
- **Advantages:** They have low environmental impact, are less toxic, and produce fewer emissions.
- **Disadvantages:** They may be less durable on some surfaces or require more care during application.

Specialty Inks:

- **Metallic Inks:** Contain metallic pigments to give the print a shiny or reflective appearance, often used in high-end packaging, labels, and promotional materials.
- **Fluorescent Inks:** These inks contain special pigments that glow under UV light, commonly used for security printing, signage, and attention-grabbing graphics.
- **Thermochromic Inks:** Change color when exposed to heat, often used for security or novelty products.
- **Invisible Inks:** These are designed to be invisible under normal conditions but reveal their message when exposed to UV light or other specific conditions.

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Composition of Printing Inks:

Printing inks generally consist of the following key components:

- 1. Pigments or Dyes:**
 - Pigments provide color and opacity to the ink. They are solid, insoluble particles suspended in the ink. Pigments are more stable and less prone to fading over time compared to dyes.
 - Dyes, unlike pigments, are soluble and provide vibrant colors but can be less stable and fade faster under UV light or heat.
- 2. Binders (Resins):**
 - The binder holds the pigment particles together and ensures that they adhere to the substrate. The type of binder used will affect the ink's durability, gloss, and drying time.
 - Common binders include acrylic resins, epoxy resins, and natural resins.
- 3. Solvents:**
 - Solvents are used to dilute the ink to the desired viscosity, making it easier to apply and flow smoothly. Solvents evaporate as the ink dries.
 - In water-based inks, water is the primary solvent. In oil-based inks, organic solvents are typically used, while UV inks do not rely on solvents but instead use photoinitiators to cure the ink under UV light.
- 4. Additives:**
 - Additives are included in small amounts to improve the ink's performance. Common additives include:
 - Drying agents (in oil-based inks) to speed up drying.
 - Dispersing agents to ensure even distribution of pigments.
 - Thickeners to control the viscosity of the ink.
 - Anti-foaming agents to reduce foam formation during application.
 - Stabilizers to prevent pigment settling or clumping.
 - Curing agents in UV inks to help the ink harden when exposed to UV light.
- 5. Varnishes:**
 - Varnishes are clear coatings that can be added to printing inks to modify the finish (e.g., making the print glossy or matte) or enhance protection against environmental damage like moisture or abrasion.

Printing Processes:

Different types of printing inks are used depending on the printing method:

- 1. Offset Printing:** Often uses oil-based or UV inks, ideal for high-volume printing such as books, magazines, and newspapers.
- 2. Flexographic Printing:** Uses solvent-based, water-based, or UV inks, suitable for packaging, labels, and flexible materials.
- 3. Screen Printing:** Uses a wide variety of inks, including water-based, UV, and solvent-based inks, commonly used for textiles, signage, and promotional products.
- 4. Gravure Printing:** Uses solvent-based inks and is suitable for high-quality, high-volume printing of packaging materials, newspapers, and magazines.
- 5. Inkjet Printing:** Uses specialized ink formulations such as dye-based, pigment-based, or UV inks. It is commonly used for high-quality color printing on various media types, including photographs and documents.



Conclusion:

Printing inks are essential in transferring images, text, or designs onto surfaces during the printing process. They come in different types, including oil-based, water-based, solvent-based, UV, and eco-friendly inks, each suited to specific printing techniques and applications. Inks are composed of pigments (or dyes), binders, solvents, and additives that collectively influence the final print quality, durability, drying time, and environmental impact.

Please contact our sales representative to exchange more details of our products whether they can be part of your new product development for specific printing ink demands.

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