

Sublimation Troubleshooting Test Record

Change one variable at a time, record the result, and keep the settings that produce the cleanest transfer.

Project & Equipment

Date		Operator	
Blank / Substrate		Supplier / Batch	
Printer		Ink	
Sublimation Paper		Heat Press / Oven	

Problem Observed

☐ Faded / pale	☐ Ghosting / shadow
☐ Wrong colors	☐ Banding / lines
☐ Blurry / soft	☐ Patchy / incomplete
☐ Paper sticking	☐ Ink bleeding
☐ White spots / uneven color	☐ Blank not accepting transfer

Starting Settings

Temperature		Time		Pressure	
Pre-press		Mirror	☐ Yes ☐ No	Paper secured	☐ Yes ☐ No

Test Log - Change One Variable at a Time

Keep the design, blank, paper, and ink the same whenever possible. Change one setting, press another sample, then record what improved or got worse.

Test	Temp	Time	Pressure	One change tested	Result / notes
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Troubleshooting Diagnosis Sheet

Use this page when the defect keeps returning or when you need to compare several possible causes.

1. Where Does the Problem Start?

Check	What you see	Likely area to investigate
☐ Transfer paper	Banding, missing colors, poor image quality before pressing	Printer, nozzle check, artwork, driver, ICC workflow
☐ Final pressed blank	Paper looks fine, but transfer is faded, ghosted, patchy, or uneven	Heat, time, pressure, moisture, movement, blank coating
☐ One blank type only	Other substrates work normally	Blank coating, polyester content, blank-specific settings
☐ Everything fails	Multiple blanks show similar defects	Printer health, actual platen temperature, pressure, paper, ink

2. Final Working Settings

Temperature		Time	
Pressure		Pre-press	
Paper / Transfer Setup		Removal Method	

3. Final Result & Notes

What fixed the problem?	
What made it worse?	
Result quality	☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Acceptable ☐ Retest
Notes for next batch	

Quick Reminder

Do not assume one temperature, time, pressure, or peel method works for every blank. Start with the blank manufacturer's instructions, verify your equipment, and change only one variable during troubleshooting.

Keep this sheet with your successful production settings so you can repeat good results when you reorder blanks, change suppliers, or troubleshoot a future batch.