

# Sublimation Troubleshooting Chart

1-page printable diagnostic flowchart for common print problems

Subli Genius Print

## START: What does the print look like?

### DOUBLE / SHADOW IMAGE



#### GHOSTING

Likely cause: Transfer shifted during pressing or removal

Check next: Secure transfer with heat tape; keep paper from moving; follow blank/paper removal guidance

### FADED EVERYWHERE



#### HEAT / SUBSTRATE

Likely cause: Time/temp mismatch or incompatible substrate/coating

Check next: Confirm blank compatibility; use manufacturer settings; verify press performance

### HORIZONTAL LINES



#### PRINTER

Likely cause: Nozzle gaps or printer-side feed/quality issue

Check next: Print a nozzle check; clean only if the pattern shows gaps or faint lines

### WRONG COLORS



#### COLOR MANAGEMENT

Likely cause: ICC/profile or double color-management problem

Check next: Use the correct printer/ink/paper color workflow; avoid applying color correction twice

### PATCHY IN ONE AREA



#### PRESS / CONTACT

Likely cause: Uneven heat, pressure, contact, moisture, or surface height

Check next: Check platen contact and pressure; pre-press fabric when appropriate; inspect the blank surface

### BLURRY / BLEEDING EDGES



#### SETUP / PRESS

Likely cause: Movement, moisture, too much heat/time, or excess ink load

Check next: Lock transfer in place; check moisture; return to manufacturer settings before changing color controls

## BEFORE YOU USE ANOTHER BLANK

1. Print a nozzle check if the defect is already visible on the transfer paper.
2. Confirm the blank is made/coated for sublimation.
3. Use the blank manufacturer's time, temperature, pressure, and removal guidance as the baseline.
4. Secure the transfer so it cannot shift.
5. Change one variable at a time and record the result.