

YMBB CraftPricing

Heat Press Temperature & Materials Guide

Complete press settings for UV DTF, DTF,
Sublimation & Vinyl / HTV

UV DTF

DTF

Sublimation

Vinyl / HTV

What's inside:

- Exact temperatures, times & pressure for every method
- Step-by-step press process for each technique
- Full compatible materials list per method
- Not-recommended materials warnings
- Pro tips to avoid the most common mistakes

UV DTF

No heat press needed — UV lamp curing only

NO HEAT REQUIRED

UV DTF uses UV lamp curing only — never use a heat press

Warning: UV DTF does NOT use a heat press. Never apply heat — it will bubble or distort the transfer. Cure only under a UV lamp.

Pro tip: Clean the surface with 91% isopropyl alcohol before applying. Press firmly with a squeegee or credit card edge to remove all air bubbles.

Step-by-step process

- 1 Print design on UV DTF film using a UV flatbed or roll printer
- 2 Cure under UV lamp 30-90 sec until fully set and opaque
- 3 Clean target surface with 91% isopropyl alcohol — let dry 30 sec
- 4 Peel carrier film and position transfer on item
- 5 Press firmly with squeegee from center outward — no bubbles
- 6 Optional: cure top surface under UV lamp 15 sec for added durability

Compatible materials

Hard surfaces

- Tumblers & water bottles (stainless, plastic)
- Phone cases (hard plastic & TPU)
- Mugs & ceramic cups
- Acrylic blanks & keychains
- Wood signs & plaques
- Glass bottles & candles
- Metal tins & flasks
- Laptop cases & tablet covers

Specialty items

- Leather wallets & patches
- Resin & epoxy items
- Sunglasses & eyeglass frames
- Ornaments (ceramic, glass, wood)
- Coasters (cork, ceramic, stone)
- Helmets & hard hats
- Clipboards & notebooks
- Tile & slate

Not recommended

- Fabric / apparel (use DTF or HTV instead)
- Highly textured or rough surfaces
- Items that flex significantly
- Silicone surfaces

DTF Transfer

Works on virtually any fabric type

Temperature	Press time	Pressure	Peel type
275-320 F	10-15 sec	Medium-firm	Cold peel
135-160 C	per press	4-6 on most presses	wait 10-15 sec

Warning: Always do a test press on scrap fabric before a full production run. Press temperatures vary by film brand — always check your supplier's specification sheet.

Pro tip: Pre-press your blank 3-5 sec to remove moisture and wrinkles. This single step dramatically improves adhesion and wash durability on every job.

Step-by-step process

- 1 Pre-press blank 3-5 sec to remove all moisture and wrinkles
- 2 Position DTF transfer face-down on the garment
- 3 Press at 300-320 F for 10-15 sec with medium-firm pressure
- 4 Lift platen and let the transfer cool 10-15 sec — do not rush
- 5 Peel carrier film cold at a low angle (45 degrees or less)
- 6 Optional: cover with parchment and re-press 5 sec for added durability

Compatible materials

Cotton & blends

- 100% cotton tees (all weights)
- Cotton/poly blends (50/50, 60/40)
- Ringspun & combed cotton
- Canvas & duck cloth
- Cotton hoodies & crewnecks
- Cotton tote bags & drawstrings
- Cotton onesies & kids apparel

Synthetics & performance

- 100% polyester garments
- Nylon fabrics
- Spandex / lycra blends
- Athletic & moisture-wicking fabrics
- Swimwear & activewear
- Windbreakers & jackets

Specialty fabrics

- Denim (light-medium weight)
- Fleece (light pressure to avoid crushing)
- Leather & faux leather
- Felt (low temp, short press)
- Mesh fabrics (use light pressure)
- Tri-blend fabrics

Not recommended

- Velvet or velour (will crush pile)
- Heavy-nap fur fabrics
- Heat-sensitive sequins or embellishments
- Hard surfaces (use UV DTF instead)

Sublimation

100% polyester & poly-coated items only

Temperature	Press time	Pressure	Peel type
385-400 F	45-60 sec	Firm	Hot peel
196-204 C	firm pressure	6-8 on most presses	immediately off press

Warning: Sublimation ONLY works on polyester (100% or poly-coated items). Cotton produces washed-out results. Works on white or very light colors only — sublimation ink is transparent.

Pro tip: Use heat-resistant tape to secure paper on all edges and cover with butcher paper to protect the platen. Ghost images happen from paper shifting mid-press — tape everything down.

Step-by-step process

- 1 Print design MIRRORED on sublimation paper using sublimation ink
- 2 Pre-press blank 5 sec to remove all moisture
- 3 Position paper face-down, tape all edges with heat-resistant tape
- 4 Cover with butcher paper or teflon sheet to protect platen
- 5 Press at 385-400 F for 45-60 sec with firm pressure
- 6 Open press and peel paper HOT immediately — do not let it cool

Compatible materials

Polyester apparel	Poly-coated hard goods
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 100% polyester tees & jerseys● Polyester hoodies & sweatshirts● Moisture-wicking athletic shirts● Polyester shorts & leggings● Polyester swimwear & activewear● Polyester baby onesies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sublimation mugs (poly-coated inside)● Aluminum photo panels● Poly-coated tumblers & bottles● Sublimation phone cases● Ceramic tiles (poly-coated)● Ornaments & keychains● Mouse pads (poly surface)● Puzzles (poly-coated)

Specialty poly items

- Polyester tote bags & drawstrings
- Polyester flags & banners
- Poly-coated wood plaques
- Sublimation flip flops (poly strap)
- Polyester pillow covers
- Neoprene (koozies, bags, sleeves)

Not recommended

- Cotton or cotton blends (washed-out result)
- Dark-colored blanks (ink is transparent)
- Non-coated wood, metal, or glass
- Natural fibers (linen, silk, wool)

Vinyl / HTV

Temp varies by vinyl type — always test first

Temperature	Press time	Pressure	Peel type
265-320 F	10-25 sec	Medium	Warm or cold
varies by vinyl type	varies by vinyl type	3-5 on most presses	depends on type

Warning: Different HTV types require very different settings. Stretchy/athletic vinyl needs lower heat. Glitter and specialty vinyl often require shorter press times to prevent scorching.

Pro tip: Always test a small swatch before production. Weed cleanly before pressing and use a teflon sheet or parchment over the carrier to protect both the vinyl and your platen.

Step-by-step process

- 1 Cut design in vinyl cutter — MIRROR image for all HTV types
- 2 Weed all excess vinyl, leaving only your design on carrier sheet
- 3 Pre-press blank 3-5 sec to remove moisture and wrinkles
- 4 Position design carrier-side UP on the garment
- 5 Cover with teflon sheet or parchment paper
- 6 Press at correct temp and time for your specific vinyl type (see below)
- 7 Peel carrier warm or cold depending on your vinyl type

Compatible materials

Standard HTV — 305 F / 15 sec / warm peel

- 100% cotton tees & shirts
- Cotton/poly blends
- Cotton hoodies & sweatshirts
- Canvas tote bags
- Cotton hats (with hat press)
- Denim jackets & jeans
- Baby onesies & kids apparel

Stretch HTV — 270-285 F / 10-12 sec / cold peel

- Spandex & lycra blends
- Athletic & performance wear
- Swimwear & yoga pants
- Compression garments
- Sports jerseys & shorts

Glitter HTV — 320 F / 20 sec / cold peel

- Cotton & poly-cotton tees
- Hoodies & sweatshirts
- Tote bags
- Avoid stretchy fabrics (can crack)

Specialty vinyl types

- Foil HTV — 285 F / 10 sec
- Patterned/printed HTV — 305 F / 15 sec
- Reflective HTV — 300 F / 15 sec / cold peel
- Flock/velvet HTV — 320 F / 25 sec / cold peel
- Holographic HTV — 280 F / 10 sec / cold peel

Not recommended

- Nylon (heat-sensitive — 230 F max if needed)
- Waterproof / DWR-coated fabrics
- Velvet or velour (pile will crush)
- 100% polyester (dye migration risk at higher temps)

Quick Reference Chart

At-a-glance settings for all four methods

Method	Temp (F)	Time	Pressure	Peel	Works on
UV DTF	None	30-90 sec (UV)	N/A	Cold	Hard surfaces, tumblers, phone cases, acrylic, wood, glass
DTF	275-320	10-15 sec	Medium-firm	Cold (10-15 sec)	Cotton, poly, blends, denim, fleece, leather, activewear
Sublimation	385-400	45-60 sec	Firm	Hot (immediate)	100% polyester & poly-coated items only. Light colors only.
Vinyl / HTV	265-320*	10-25 sec*	Medium	Warm or cold*	Cotton, blends, denim. *Varies by vinyl type — always check.

General pro tips for all methods

Always pre-press your blank 3-5 sec before any method to remove moisture and wrinkles.

Test on scrap before a full production run — especially with new blank brands or vinyl types.

Keep a press log: note brand, temp, time, pressure and result for every new combination.

Use heat-resistant tape for sublimation and teflon sheets for HTV to protect your platen.

Clean hard surfaces with 91% isopropyl alcohol before any UV DTF application.

Replace Teflon sheets when discolored — a dirty sheet transfers residue to your next job.

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