

## SCREEN PRINTING



### What is a screen?

**Answer:** Screens are used in silkscreen printing and are 100% polyester and come in a variety of mesh sizes. Mesh size is determined by the size in the holes between the threads. The lower the mesh count, the bigger the hole and the more ink that passes through the screen. The mesh screen is selected based on the detail of the artwork. Artwork is output as film. The film is applied to a screen that has been coated with a thin layer of photosensitive emulsion. Then it is exposed to a controlled light source. The exposed screen is washed using tap water. The ad image washes away from the screen creating a stencil for printing.

### What is silk screen printing?

**Answer:** Ink is poured onto the screen. A squeegee passes over the ink covered imaged forcing ink through the stencil and on to the product.

### Are there different kinds of inks used in silk screen printing?

**Answer:** UV or Ultraviolet ink is light sensitive. It is applied with a very thin application of ink and dried by a light source. When it dries, it is very hard and usually has a glossy finish. This type of ink does not work well on flexible surfaces. The ink is very runny and a 280 mesh or higher must be used. This method is more environmentally friendly.

Conventional inks in the second kind of silk screening ink. There is a wider range of color choices with conventional inks, depending on the substrate. It is solvent based and requires a heat source to dry the solvents out of the ink. The inks are usually more opaque and they generally “bite” or etch the surface of the substrate.

