

Handling and storage guidance

General Storage and Handling Instructions

Keep the paper in its original packaging until required. Handle the paper with care to avoid damaging the coated surface. Avoid touching the coated surface (print side), as oils from the skin could be absorbed into the coating, which would have an adverse effect on the print quality. Handle the paper by the edges or underside, or use white gloves. Do not expose the paper to extremes of temperature or humidity.

After Printing

Coated inkjet papers can react to solvents, plasticizers or antioxidants, by producing a transient yellow cast. To avoid this, let the prints dry thoroughly. This is best done individually in drying racks, which allow free circulation of air. The prints should be left like this for up to 24 hours. Do not stack a number of freshly printed prints in a pile, nor store them in metal print drawers. Do not seal freshly printed material in polythene bags, in drawers, or other areas where air cannot freely circulate until the print is dry. If the dried prints are to be stored in plastic bags at any point, we recommend the use of bags that do not contain plasticizers. Certain material i.e. tapes, dry mounting film, contain plasticizers, and can cause temporary discoloration. Discoloration of coated papers is a known phenomenon, but it is only temporary, and can be permanently reversed by exposure to UV. If yellowing is experienced, exposing to daylight for a short period of time can permanently reverse it. Handle the print with care as the surface is easily damaged.

Archival Properties

Somerset Velvet for Epson is made from 100% cotton, to give you a sheet made with one of purest sources of cellulose. It is an acid free archival quality paper. It is also buffered with calcium carbonate to combat acid attack that finished prints may encounter from air pollution.

Fade Resistance

For print longevity, pigment inks like Epson UltraChrome Inks are advised. This type of ink usually has a far greater fade resistance than the equivalent dye based ink, making it ideal for coated inkjet papers. As with original artwork, prints should be framed behind glass and displayed away from direct sunlight.

Matting and Framing

Both the mount and mat should be made of archival quality products such as 100% rag. The mat should also provide air space between the print and the glass of the frame. It is recommended that a 0.1 inch minimum spacing be allowed for the distance between finished print and glass, with larger prints given additional spacing to help prevent outward bowing of the artwork or inward bowing of acrylic if used rather than glass.

Environment of Display

The three most important environmental factors in displaying prints are light, relative humidity, and temperature. Both visible and ultraviolet light can deteriorate digital images. UV filtered glass can greatly reduce the adverse effects of light on inkjet printed digital prints. Relative humidity levels above 65% can also cause damage to digital prints, even when exposed for brief durations. The careful placement of framed artwork on inside walls away from sources of extreme heat or cold (vents) will prolong their life. Room temperatures should be maintained below 75 degrees F to inhibit the possible accelerated aging of prints due to exposure to high temperature display conditions.