

## Lamination Services & Information

Encapsulation Film (film on both sides, with or without bead) Available:

Gloss: Excellent colour presentation and protection and is the least expensive finish for general laminating work. Glare can be a problem, especially on show materials.

Lustre: A great compromise film that gives great colour vibrancy as well as reduced glare. Suitable for photos, colour graphics and even short term trade show products

Matte: Eliminates glare entirely and does not show scratches. Ideally suited for photographic images and has a pronounced negative effect on colour and vibrancy of images. Most expensive of film finishes.

Gauge of film (thickness): Films are available in a variety of thickness that affects the durability, rigidity and cost of finishing. Generally the thicker the film the higher the cost and the more rigid it will be. Drawbacks for thicker films (aside from cost) are difficulty rolling and storing & scratches appear more pronounced. Heavy films should not be combined with lighter gauge films as this will cause noticeable curling. Common gauges carried:

- 1.7, 3, 5 and 10 mil

Not all gauges are available in all sizes or film types. Gloss films below 25" width have the greatest variety of gauges available while other finishes such as matte and lustre are limited to 3 mil film. Specialty films are quite often of a different gauge altogether.

### Specialty Films

Over the past few years there have been a number of laminating films developed to address particular display and finishing needs.

Pebble Finish: Also known as polycarbonate or Lexan films, these have been developed in order to improve resistance to transport and storage damage as well as resistance to glare and marking. These are commonly used in trade show panels, POP up displays, roll up displays and permanent point of sale stations.

UV Resistant: These have been developed to help reduce the deterioration of prints that are exposed to direct sunlight. UV inhibitors can bounce back harmful rays adding years to the life of long-term graphics. These films are essential for any long-term outdoor exposure.

Specialty Backer : These films offer greater opacity, long term resistance to tunnelling and better durability for high end graphics. These backers are commonly used to add stiffness and to block out display backgrounds that may interfere with viewing the graphic. Film backers are used in producing POP-up display panels, roll-up graphics and individual panel graphics. Common gauges are 5mil and 10 mil in black, white and sometimes grey block-out.

Liquid Laminates: These are a recent development used in order to protect outdoor vinyl graphics from abrasion and UV light rays. Essentially the liquid is a type of coating that dries similar to a varnish because it is a liquid this allows the finish to remain flexible similar to the vinyl banner material it is applied to. This is a less expensive alternative to pressure sensitive vinyl films that must be used to maintain pliability in the substrate. The finish is generally not as uniform or flawless as film based laminates.