

Mounting Services & Information

Gateway can convert prints into rigid display and packaging pieces. The quality of the final product produced depends upon budget, application and substrate selected. A substrate is the board or surface that a print is mounted to.

The following is a list of substrates, their uses and relative costs:

Mounting Cards: Multiply boards range in thickness from 22pt to 85 pt board and are commonly used in retail applications due to their low cost and speed of finishing. The most common thickness is 55pt board that can be mounted on one or both sides. Paper based boards are limited in size and generally cannot be used for sizes greater than 36x48 maximum.

Foamcore: This board is great when the budget is tight and the durability of the project is not essential. This is essentially a short term product. Foam boards have an expanded foam centre (core) which is surfaced with coated paper on both sides. The most common thickness is 3/16", but thicker and denser boards are available for those who need more strength and profile. We carry black and white foamcore in 3/16" profile. Foamcore is inexpensive and light but it damages easily, is flammable and it warps easily within days of being mounted. Warp and damage can be minimized through the addition of plastic framing edges that give a more finished appearance.

Gatorboard: A more durable form of expanded foam board that has many of the beneficial characteristics of foamcore without the drawbacks. Gatorboard uses thin layers of wood fibre on each side of the foam as well as a higher density centre core for very good durability and warp resistance. Gatorboard's primary draw-back is its much greater cost compared to foamcore. Gator is available in kraft, white and black finishes as well as thickness from 3/16" to 1" thick. We commonly finish the edges with plastic framing to give a more polished look and to protect the print and laminate edges from peel-back.

Plakmount and Masonite: These wood based substrates are ideal when you desire a more permanent exhibit piece. Plakmount uses a ¼ thick HDF board that has the image mounted to it with a matte laminate and bevelled, finished edges. All plaks come with a groove cut in the back for easy wall mounting. Masonite mounting utilizes a thinner 1/8th board with a bevelled, finished edge. This product is not thick enough to allow for a groove to be cut for mounting, but the weight is almost half as much as the thicker plakmount boards. Masonite boards can still be screwed, glued or Velcroed into place. Masonite is also less expensive.

Custom Picture Framing: Professional looking, contemporary or classic. "Traditional" glass and frame mounting of your images and photos can include matting or even float mounted images with glass on front and back. A wide choice of frame and matte finishes are available to compliment your prints and your décor. In-house plastic framing is available on mounted products to give a more finished appearance for only a little more money and very little extra time.

Sintra and Styrene: These board types are very similar in use and looks. We carry white Sintra in 1mm, 3mm and 6 mm thicknesses as well as styrene in 60 pt. These PVC based products are water and warp resistant which makes them ideal for outdoor applications. Sintra boards are also available in a variety of colours and they can be heat formed into various shapes. Styrene has a smoother finish and is available in a greater array of thinner sizes for header cards and other retail applications. This durable product is great for two sided applications and can be suspended from drilled holes.

Mounting Services & Information

Coroplast: This corrugated expanded PVC product has been used for outdoor real estate signs for decades. Light, durable and inexpensive, this product is ideal for outdoor applications involving prolonged exposure to the elements. Available in a multitude of custom ordered colours as well as stock white. We carry ¼" thick board, but thinner and thicker products are available depending upon the end use. Generally the larger the image is the thicker the board should be to resist wind damage. Pressure sensitive vinyl is applied by hand or by laminator. This product should not be used for image conscience indoor applications as the "fluting" causes very noticeable lines in the applied graphics.

Acrylic/ Plexi/ Clear Styrene: These are used for backlit signs, translucent outdoor signage and quality indoor exhibits. Face-mounting a standard opaque image to the backside of clear acrylic adds extra depth to the colour and image due to the clarity and thickness of the acrylic. Mounting this piece to a wall with "stand-off" hardware adds a professional finishing touch to your graphics.