

DTF

Transfer Guide – Quick Index

We're always grateful to have you in our community. We created this guide to support your growth and help you generate more revenue through quality DTF printing.



1. What is DTF?

Overview of the DTF (Direct to Film) printing process and why it's ideal for full-color, detailed prints.

2. Fabric Compatibility

Works on cotton, polyester, nylon, blends, spandex, and more.

3. How to Apply

Pressing instructions for:
Heat Press
Cricut
Household Iron

4. Care Instructions

Washing and drying tips to extend transfer life.

5. Durability & Lifespan

Up to 60 washes or 2–5 years with proper care.

6. Troubleshooting

Solutions for peeling, cracking, or misaligned transfers.

Fix Your Files – Included

Every order includes free file optimization to make sure your artwork prints perfectly.

What is DTF Transfers?

DTF (Direct to Film) transfer is an innovative printing technique that enables detailed, high-quality designs to be transferred onto various fabrics. In this process, the design is printed onto a special PET film using either eco-solvent or water-based inks, which are safe and eco-friendly. Following printing, a hot-melt adhesive powder is applied to the design. This powder is then cured, making the transfer ready for application.

Once prepared, the DTF transfer is applied to the fabric using a heat press, bonding the design securely to the material. This method is highly versatile, delivering vivid and durable results on both light and dark textiles, and it works effectively on a range of materials, including cotton, polyester, and blends. DTF transfers are particularly popular for custom apparel and intricate designs, as they allow for fine details, gradients, and rich colors that remain vibrant wash after wash.

Top industries to target with this product

Fitness brands



Sports teams



Apparel Stores



Creators



Artists



What types of fabrics can I use DTF transfers on?

One of the biggest advantages of DTF (Direct to Film) transfers is their versatility across various types of fabrics. DTF transfers work exceptionally well on:



Cotton

DTF transfers adhere smoothly to cotton fabrics, making them ideal for everyday apparel like T-shirts, hoodies, and tote bags.



Polyester

Unlike some other transfer types, DTF works seamlessly on polyester, allowing vibrant designs on activewear and sportswear.



Cotton-Polyester

Blends Blended fabrics, which can sometimes be challenging for other printing methods, retain the durability and vibrancy of DTF transfers, offering flexibility in fabric choices.



Nylon

DTF transfers can also work on nylon, making them suitable for bags, jackets, and outerwear that often use this material.



Lycra and Spandex

These stretchy fabrics, commonly used in athletic and performance wear, hold up well with DTF transfers, retaining both stretch and design quality.



Silk and Satin

While some delicate fabrics can be difficult to print on, DTF transfers can be applied carefully to materials like silk and satin for custom designs on items such as scarves and accessories.

With their ability to adhere to both natural and synthetic fabrics, DTF transfers offer a durable, washable solution that produces vibrant colors on almost any material.

How do I apply a Dtf transfer with different heat sources?

Heat Press

Step 1: Position Your Design

Position your transfer in the desired location and make sure it is flat before pressing. You can press across seams, for example on 6-panel hats and side seams of t-shirts. Heat-resistant tape is recommended when pressing on hats or when using a household iron to prevent the transfer from moving. You'll learn when it's needed with experience.

Step 2: Press & Peel After a Few Seconds

Press the transfer at **310°F / 155°C** with medium to high pressure for **~12 seconds**. It is recommended to test one piece first.

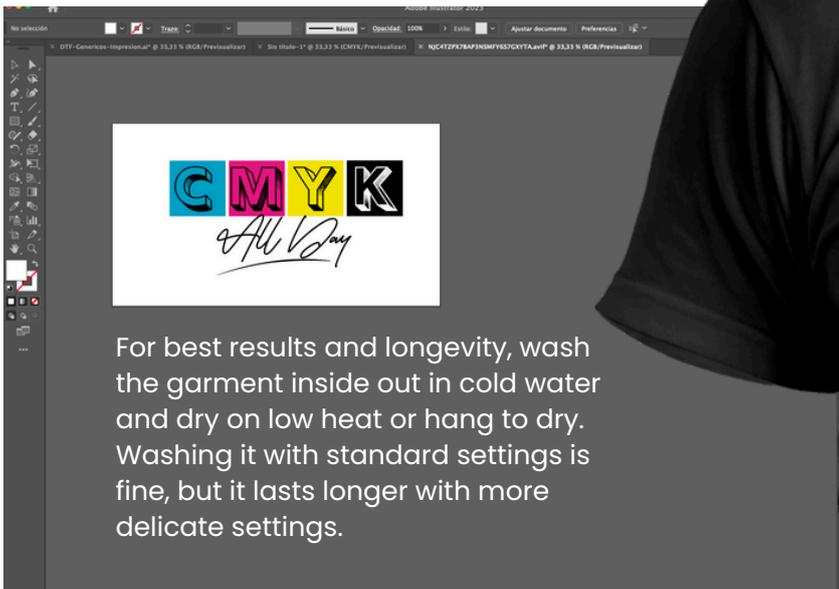
Wait a few seconds and peel! If parts of the design are not sticking, lay it back down and press again with added pressure and heat (**+15°F**). If unsuccessful, increase heat by **15°F** increments until it transfers correctly.

If your settings are scorching the garment, the first step would be to reduce pressure. If that doesn't work, retain the reduced pressure and reduce the heat by **10-15°F**. With a little practice, you'll find the right settings for each garment and material. If you do, increase by **25°F to 40°F** to compensate for the thickness of the silicone.



Step 3: Final Press & Wash Instructions

Important: While the majority of other DTF companies advise you to press it just once, this is improper. After hundreds of wash tests, we have found that a final press is imperative to create a superior product. After the design is transferred onto the garment, with the film peeled off, cover the design with provided parchment paper and press for **15 seconds**. Doing so enhances the value of your product by greatly improving the durability and softness as well as reducing the shine.



How do I apply a Dtf transfer with different heat sources?

Iron

Step 1: Position Your Design

Take your time and line up your artwork in the desired print area.

Step 2: Press

Set your iron to a temperature that matches the fabric you're using. If the transfer isn't adhering properly, gradually increase the heat toward the cotton/linen setting -- **the hottest option** -- while ensuring it won't damage your garment.

Step 3: Peel Hot After a Few Seconds

Wait a few seconds (or more) and peel! If parts of the design are not sticking, lay it back down and press again with added pressure and heat (**+15°F**). If unsuccessful, increase heat by **15°F** increments until it works.



Step 3: Final Press

Place the parchment paper included or a single layer of t-shirt material over the design and press again for 15 seconds to soften the design, increase durability, and remove shine.

How to Wash

It is optimal to wash inside out with cold water. Being that you are using an iron instead of a heatpress (which applies heat with more pressure, more evenly), we would recommend hang drying instead of in the dryer. If you decide to use a dryer, we'd recommend on low heat, inside out.

Everyone's irons, heat, pressure is different when using an iron, so test to find out what works best for you. Remember that you cannot overpress your transfers. The better they are pressed, the more durability they have through washing and drying.



How do I apply a Dtf transfer with different heat sources?

Cricut



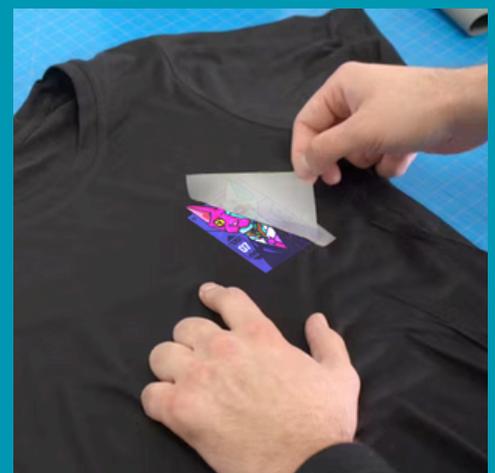
Step 1: Position Your Design

There is no requirement to pre-iron your shirt, your transfer will adhere perfectly fine without doing so. Position the transfer in the desired location. Normally it is **3-4** inches down on the front of an adult t-shirts, **2-3** inches down on the front of a youth t-shirt and an inch lower on the back side of the same type of garment. The best way to figure this out is to apply a dtf transfer to one shirt and then try it on. From there, you'll have more confidence when placing it on the rest of your products.

Step 2: Press

Set your Cricut to **320°F-340°F** degrees and **20 seconds**. If that is not hot enough where the transfer is adhering to your shirt, increase it by **15 degrees** at a time and try again. You can't overpress your design, so try until you figure out the right settings.

Remember that you cannot overpress your transfers. The better they are pressed, the more durability they have through washing and drying.



Step 3: Peel Hot After a Few Seconds

Wait a few seconds (or more) and peel! If parts of the design are not sticking, lay it back down and press again with added pressure and heat (**+15°F**). If unsuccessful, increase heat by **15°F** increments until it works.



Final Press

Place the parchment paper included or a single layer of t-shirt material over the design and press again with the same settings for **20 seconds** to soften the design, increase durability, and remove shine.

Are Dtf transfer durable?

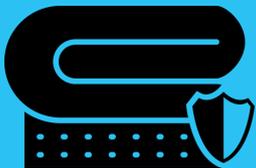
Yes, DTF transfers are highly durable and designed to withstand regular wear and washing. Their durability comes from the quality of inks, adhesives, and the printing and transfer process itself. Here are a few reasons why DTF transfers are considered durable:



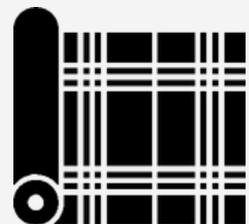
Long-Lasting Adhesion: The hot-melt adhesive used in DTF transfers creates a strong bond with the fabric, which helps prevent peeling or cracking over time. The adhesive is formulated to withstand repeated washing and regular use.



High-Quality Inks: DTF transfers use eco-solvent or water-based inks, which offer vibrant colors that resist fading even after multiple washes. The inks are designed to adhere well to the film and fabric, helping them maintain their appearance.



Resistance to Cracking and Stretching: Unlike traditional vinyl, DTF transfers are flexible, allowing them to move with the fabric and resist cracking when stretched. This makes them ideal for items like T-shirts, activewear, and other garments that experience frequent movement.



Versatile on Many Fabrics: DTF transfers can be applied to a wide range of materials, including cotton, polyester, blends, and even stretchy fabrics. They adhere well to different fabric types, which adds to their longevity and versatility.



Easy to Care For: DTF-transferred garments can typically be washed in cold or warm water, and they do not require special care. To maximize durability, it's recommended to wash the garments inside out and avoid using harsh detergents or high-heat drying.

How long do dtf transfer last?

DTF transfers are known for their long-lasting durability, and under proper care, they can last for **2 to 5 years or 60+ washes**. However, the lifespan of the transfer can vary depending on several factors:



- **Fabric Type** The durability may differ depending on the material it's applied to. For example, cotton tends to hold DTF transfers well, while more delicate or heavily worn fabrics may show signs of wear sooner.



- **Washing Conditions** Washing with cold or warm water, using a gentle cycle, and avoiding high heat in the dryer can extend the life of the transfer. High heat and harsh detergents can cause the design to fade or peel prematurely.



- **Proper Application** If the DTF transfer is applied correctly with sufficient pressure and heat, it is more likely to last longer and maintain its vibrancy through many washes.



- **Garment Usage** Heavy use, especially on high-friction areas like elbows, knees, or areas that are washed frequently, may cause the transfer to wear faster.

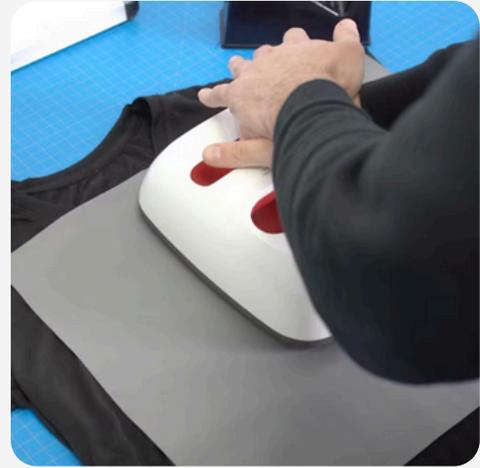
When maintained properly, DTF transfers can remain vibrant and intact for several years and many washes, making them a great option for custom apparel and products.

Troubleshooting Common Issues

Even with perfect technique, issues can sometimes arise. Here's what to watch out for:



◀ **Issue**
—————
Do ▶



Transfer Not Adhering Properly

If your transfer isn't sticking to the fabric properly: Lay it back down and press again with added pressure and heat **(+15°F)**. If that doesn't work, increase temperature by increments of **15°F** until it transfers correctly.

Remember: Repeated pressing won't damage the transfer.



◀ **Issue**
—————
Do ▶



Design Cracking/Peeling After Washing If your design cracks or peels after washing

Always turn garments inside-out before washing Wash in cold water on gentle cycle Avoid bleach and harsh detergents Air dry or tumble dry on low heat



◀ **Issue**
—————
Do ▶



Transfer Shifting During Application If your transfer moves during application: Use Thermal Heat Tape to secure the transfer Close the press gently to avoid air movement Pre-press the garment to create a flat surface Ensure your work surface is stable Consider using a placement guide

