



PLOTTER PAPER
GUYS

3 Common Mistakes People Make When Ordering Plotter Paper





Many people are unaware that when it comes to plotter paper for your wide format printer - one size does not fit all. When ordering plotter paper, there are 3 very common mistakes people make. In this guide, we'll point out these common mistakes so you can avoid repeating them and not go through the hassle that results from having the wrong large format media for your printer.

Choosing an Incompatible Media

The first, and most common, error people make when ordering paper or film for their wide format plotter is selecting a media that is incompatible with their printer. This usually happens when people are looking to print Mylar in an inkjet printer such as an HP T Series or a Canon IPF.

At Plotter Paper Guys, we offer two types of matte Mylar film - inkjet and xerographic. Xerographic film, also referred to as matte coated Mylar or engineering Mylar, is made specifically for use in printers that use toner rather than ink to make a print. Toner based printers are made by companies such as Kip, OCE and Xerox. The most common Kip toner based large format printers are the Kip 3000, Kip 7170, and Kip 8000. All too often, many customers who are engineers by trade will order engineering Mylar from us to use in their inkjet printer. They think "Hey, I'm an engineer, and this is engineering Mylar- this must be what I need". This will not work!



If you are using a Oce Plot Wave 300 or a Xerox 6204, then wonderful! Xerographic Mylar is what you need. Though xerographic film and inkjet film look identical when laying side by side, they could not be more different when it comes to performance. If you try to print a xerographic film in an inkjet plotter, the ink will stay on top of the surface and not dry. This leads to a big mess and an unhappy customer. If you're unsure if your large format printer prints using inkjet or toner, please reach out to us and we will be happy to assist and point you in the right direction.

Selecting an Unsupported Core Size For a Wide Format Printer

The next common error made when one purchases supplies for their Canon, Epson, or HP plotter, is selecting a media on a size core that is not supported by that wide format printer. In general, wide format print media is offered on 2 different core diameters as well as cut sheets. If your plotter is a roll fed plotter, our products are offered on 2 inch and 3 inch cores. Though most modern wide format printers can accept 2" or 3" cores, many legacy machines such as the HP 500, HP 800, or HP 1050C can only handle 2" core rolls. If you have a newer (less than 5 years old) Canon IPF printer or an HP Z series printer, 2 inch or 3 inch cores will work just fine.



Picking The Right Roll Length

Though there is so much to know and consider when selecting the right media for your wide format printer, the last common mistake people often make is selecting a roll length that suits your printer. Most rolls you find on Plotter Paper Guys range in length from 60 feet to 500 feet in length. Ensuring you purchase and run the proper length roll for your plotter is crucial.

Let's take a look at some common HP printers such as the HP 500, the HP 800 and the HP 1050. The 500 and 800 series printers from Hewlett Packard can only handle rolls of paper that are 150' in length or less. The HP 1050 printer is designed to handle 150' and 300' rolls on 2" cores. Please note that the HP 1050 can't use a 500' roll.

Canon offers the IPF series printers which offer a wide array of media they can print and the rolls they can handle. The following Canon IPF printers can handle roll lengths up to 500': Canon IPF models 500, 600, 700, 800, 2000, 4000, 5100, 6000, 8000, 9000.

Epson Surecolor T printers and Epson Surecolor P printers can handle rolls on either 2 inch or 3 inch cores as well as lengths up to 300'.

If you don't see your printer listed here, please reach out to us with the make and model of your printer and we will be happy to assist you.

Although these are the most common mistakes people make when ordering plotter paper, they aren't unavoidable. The Plotter Paper Guys are available to help you find the right product for your equipment and needs to avoid frustration and save you money. We appreciate your interest in our products and look forward to working with you soon.

