

Tech Tip 114

Platemaking Room Specifications

The process of manufacturing a photopolymer plate requires a relatively dust-free environment. It is not significantly different from other photographic processes such as film preparation and duplication. A “clean room” environment meeting the specifications outlined below is recommended. Today, clean room technology is quite common and inexpensive. The small, added cost to meet these requirements will quickly be offset in production and material savings.

AIR CONDITIONING

Temperature: 72°F (22°C) ± 2° (variance control is more important)
Relative Humidity: 60% ± 5%

AIRFLOW

Positive air pressure with 20% fresh air
High-efficiency filtration filter to meet 60% high-media filter specification
Multiple ceiling inputs and multiple floor-level outputs
Refer to your local municipality with respect to appropriate air return requirements

CEILING

Drywall ceiling with a smooth, low-glare finish or
Drop ceilings with weighted or secured panels made from a non-flaking, dust-free material

WALLS

Walls with no ledges, piping, or panels to collect dust
Painted with a low-glare, non-flaking paint

FLOORS

Epoxy-sealed concrete with a textured finish, suitable for mopping or
Solvent-resistant tile with rubber floor mats

PERSONAL ACCESS

Room should not be used for through traffic
Entrances and exits should be from low-dust environments



LIGHTING

Standard office lighting with fixtures that have no place for dust to collect
Cover fluorescent lamps with UV shields or filters to prevent UV contamination
Cover any exposed windows with UV shields or filters to prevent UV contamination

ROOM LAYOUT

Designed for easy dusting and damp mopping - separate storage area is preferred

For additional information or assistance with the design of your platemaking area, please contact your MacDermid Technical Representative.

