

Tech Tip 104

Photopolymer Plate Storage

MacDermid liquid photopolymer printing plates should be cleaned immediately after use with detergent and water or other compatible plate wash solution, using a soft bristle brush or an automatic plate wash machine. After washing, the plate should be thoroughly rinsed with plain water and dried. If you are using an automatic plate wash machine, do not use a solution that has a temperature in excess of 140°F (60°C).

As with all photopolymer plates, MacDermid printing plates should be stored away from UV (actinic) light such as direct sunlight or unfiltered mercury vapor lamps, preferably in a cool, dry storage area. Plates stored on cylinders should be wrapped with an opaque material such as black polyethylene film. If plates are to be wrapped, they should be allowed to air dry for at least 24 hours.

Care should be taken to avoid high humidity, high temperature conditions. Plates should not be stored near a heat source such as heating vents, etc. Typical room conditions (68-85°F, 30-60% relative humidity) are ideal for plate storage.

Pre-mounted corrugated plates can be stored on hanging racks or standing on edge to maintain in-the-round, curved position. If stored flat, the plate may buckle and separate from the mount material. Air circulation in the plate storage area will help to maintain consistent conditions.