

# H-UV Offset Printing Coatings Guide & File Prep

The right coating can help protect your printed piece or add a creative dimension. Results will usually look best on coated paper because the hard, nonporous surface of coated paper holds the coating on the top of the paper rather than have it disappear by being absorbed into the paper. Even when trying to achieve an overall matte effect, a gloss coated sheet is usually the best paper choice and the gloss finish on the paper will provide superior printability. In general, uncoated papers do not benefit very much in appearance from coatings or varnishes, although either will help prevent rubbing in areas of heavy ink coverage.

## **CMYK and no finishing coat**

Art creation: 1 pass, no additional layers needed

## **CMYK with overall H-UV gloss varnish**

Art creation: 1 pass thru press, no additional layers needed, press operator adds overall H-UV coating  
*A gloss varnish increases the saturation and depth of colors while improving image contrast. It provides good protection against rub-off but some fingerprinting will be apparent on dark or light colors. Because the gloss finish is highly reflective it creates glare on the surface of the print which may impair the readability of text.*

## **CMYK with overall gloss aqueous coating**

Art creation: 1 pass thru press, no additional layers needed, press operator adds overall gloss aqueous coating

*Gloss aqueous offers better protection than gloss varnish. One of the most commonly used coatings available today it provides good protection from fingerprints and other blemishes. Aqueous coatings are less likely to yellow and are more environmentally friendly.*

## **CMYK with overall satin aqueous coating**

Art creation: 1 pass thru press, no additional layers needed, press operator adds overall satin aqueous coating

*A popular compromise between gloss and matte, offers a pleasing sheen and good sheet protection*

## **CMYK with overall soft touch aqueous coating**

Art creation: 1 pass thru press, no additional layers needed, press operator adds overall soft touch aqueous coating

*A proprietary coating that creates a suede-like texture and extreme matte appearance.*

## **CMYK with spot strike-thru reticulating varnish and overall H-UV gloss varnish**

Art creation: 1 pass thru press, set-up spot reticulating varnish as additional fifth ink layer, press operator adds overall H-UV gloss varnish.

*The gloss is applied flooding the entire piece. The areas where the varnish was previously applied reacts differently and creates a different appearance. Reticulating gloss UV coating reticulates on the varnish and gives a uniform textured appearance.*

## **CMYK with spot strike-thru dull varnish and overall H-UV gloss varnish**

Art creation: 1 pass thru press, set-up spot dull varnish as additional fifth ink layer

*The matte areas of the traditional strike through coating remain much smoother than the reticulating varnish.*

## **CMYK with overall H-UV gloss coating, plus second pass with spot dull varnish**

Art creation: 2 passes thru press, set-up spot varnish as additional fifth ink layer

*A high-gloss coating is flooded over the sheet. As it cures, the spot dull varnish shows through the gloss coating to achieve a dull finish where varnish was applied and the areas where the varnish was not applied appears glossy.*