

## Rub & Reveal (Thermochromic) inks

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### Overview

Thermochromic inks are water based and are primarily used to hide printed messages, however they can also be used as an anti photocopying device to increase security of Documents.

When rubbed the Thermochromic ink changes to a semi-transparent grey/white state, allowing the message underneath to be read.

Black is the only colour that will mask other colours. (Different colours are available but they are extremely weak and will only mask very light tints of the same colour).

Thermochromic inks can be manufactured to react at different temperature ranges - though they are most commonly set to react at temperatures close to normal human body temperature. (This allows for the underlying message to be revealed through the warmth of a hand)

'Chill and Reveal' inks are also available - these inks appear slightly translucent at room temperature, with a hint of the chosen colour, but change colour when chilled in a refrigerator. (Colours available: Black, Blue, Orange, Pink, Red + Green).

**These products are not approved for Direct food contact.**

### General Guidance

Ink has a short shelf life 1 MONTH in unopened containers - inks cannot be kept in stock and must be ordered for each job.

Do not use over areas that are to be folded, creased or trimmed.

Inks are best used to cover small image areas, there may be slight 'pinholing' evident in large image areas, which is not possible to completely eliminate.

Ensure the print surface to be covered has equal absorbency and hold-out - as uneven absorbency may cause the image beneath to 'show through' the Thermochromic ink.

For maximum protection of the Thermochromic print surface OPP lamination is recommended.

**Please also see 'General Guidelines to consideration for UV varnishing and Lamination'**