

Pad Break-In Procedure

Silicone pads develop a slick finish on their surface. Most times, simply wiping the surface with alcohol is enough to remove excess silicone from the surface. At times, a more aggressive solvent is required for more complete silicone removal. The following is a step-by-step procedure to better understand how to break in a pad.

Printing pads must be stored flat on their base. Nothing should come into contact with the pad surface. When an item stays into contact with pad surface while in storage, it will damage the pad permanently.

Used pads should have all ink removed before storing. Leave pads uncovered during this time. Any solvent that may have been absorbed into the surface will evaporate during this time.

New printing pads need to be wiped with alcohol or an aggressive solvent before being used for the first time. An example of an aggressive solvent is MEK, Acetone, or even the thinner used for your ink. However, be sure all solvents are fully evaporated before trying to test print.

Printing onto paper does test printing. If paper printing is not possible, product printing will not be possible. If the pad is suspect as the cause of inability to print, try another pad. If the pad works, then the pad is not broken in yet. Continue to wipe the surface and re-test on paper with the original pad. When the older pad also makes no improvement, it is usually ink that has not been thinned properly, not the pad.