



## **ColorMaxx Ink FAQs**

### **Is ColorMaxx Ink, PreTreat, or CleanJet toxic?**

ColorMaxx Ink, PreTreat, and CleanJet are water-based and safe for the environment and for those who handle it. For more specific information, refer to the MSDS sheets, available upon request.

### **In what printers can ColorMaxx Ink be used?**

ColorMaxx Ink has been favorably tested with direct to garment printers based on 4000/4800 series model Epsoms, and should work with printers based on other platforms as well. Peak ink performance requires proper use of the ink, and proper maintenance and care of the printer as mandated by your printer manufacturer.

### **Where is ColorMaxx Ink made?**

ColorMaxx Ink, PreTreat, and CleanJet are currently manufactured in Europe.

### **How do I use ColorMaxx Ink?**

You use ColorMaxx Ink the same as you use any other direct to garment ink. We recommend against directly mixing our ink with other direct to garment printing inks though, because the formula is likely different and unknown side effects may occur. For best results, use up a color, purge any remaining ink, then load ColorMaxx. Small amounts of your original ink that manage to mix in shouldn't cause any harm. You don't have to change all of your current colors over to ColorMaxx at once either – you can keep printing with your other ink until you run out, then replace the colors with ColorMaxx one at a time as needed.

### **Does ColorMaxx Ink settle out - develop sediment after sitting on the shelf?**

The colored inks do not settle out unless you leave them sitting for a very long time. You can pick the bottle up and tilt it slowly upside down while looking underneath, and see if there are settlings. If you ever do leave it sitting long enough (a year or more usually) to settle out, just shake it vigorously for awhile to mix it up and then let it sit until the air bubbles go away. The white ink, on the other hand, will settle - the same as all other white direct to garment inks. You should always gently swirl, tilt, and stir the white to mix up any pigment that has settled, before you try to use it. If it settles out a lot, just shake it really good, then let it sit for a while to get rid of the air bubbles, and then gently stir it up again prior to pouring.

### **Can I use ColorMaxx Ink on any material?**

ColorMaxx Ink works best when used on 100% cotton. Our ink can be used on cotton/poly blends of up to 50/50, but the results may be more uneven. With some experimentation, you may be able to achieve satisfactory results on higher percentage polyester blends, or even 100% polyester, but you will likely need to adjust the ink flow in your RIP since polyester requires less ink. In addition, you should pretreat all shirts



having a 50% or greater polyester content. Images on polyester will not have as much color depth and vibrancy as if they were on cotton shirts. For more specific instructions on printing to polyester, you should follow the guidelines set forth by your printer manufacturer for the RIP you are using. For the best results, we recommend better quality heavier, tightly and smoothly woven garments in 100% cotton.

### **Can I print white onto dark or other color garments?**

If you purchase ColorMaxx White Ink and ColorMaxx PreTreat, and your printer and RIP software supports it, you will be able to print vibrant, living images onto dark shirts – even snow white onto a black shirt. We do recommend purchasing a quality sprayer so that the PreTreat will be more evenly dispersed when you prep your garments.

### **What if I just want to print white or colored shirts and don't want to use white ink?**

That's perfectly alright. The CMYK ColorMaxx Inks are perfectly suited for printing on white garments. You can also print onto lighter colors, but the shirt color will show where white would normally, and the color of the shirt may influence the overall look of the print. For the most vibrant prints on colored garments, we recommend using ColorMaxx White Ink for the under-base.

### **Do I have to pre-treat all shirts?**

It is unnecessary to pre-treat white garments when you use ColorMaxx Ink – except possibly if you are attempting to print on 50% or higher polyester content shirts. You normally only have to pre-treat when you are going to be printing with the white ink. So, even if you are printing on colored shirts, as long as you aren't using the white ink, you don't have to pre-treat.

### **How do you recommend using ColorMaxx PreTreat for the best results?**

Ideally, we recommend using either a gravity fed air sprayer, set to around 30psi with fine and wide spray coverage, or an electric sprayer such as the one we offer, set to a wide, fine spray. For the best results, pre-press your shirt for about 10 seconds at 320 degrees F to flatten the fibers. Place the shirt on something that holds it vertically, stable and smooth. Using a smooth, medium speed side-to-side motion, start at the top of the shirt and work your way down. Don't tilt the sprayer back and forth with your wrist; move your entire arm back and forth so that the sprayer maintains the same distance from the shirt. After you reach the bottom, work your way back up to the top, and then finally, back to the bottom. Then press the shirt in the press for 10 more seconds at the same temperature to dry. It is now ready for you to print upon.

### **Can I use ColorMaxx PreTreat with my own ink, or my own pretreat with ColorMaxx Ink?**

The short answer to that is "probably". The long answer is that there is no way to know for certain if one pretreat will work with another ink unless it is tried successfully, so our official recommendation is that if you plan to mix manufacturers, test it first. We have heard of cases where one pretreat works better (or worse) than another, with a given



brand of ink. Ideally, you'll be using all ColorMaxx products and this won't be an issue, but we realize that you may want to use up whatever you have on hand – we'd probably want to do the same thing. Just be sure to try it first on something that isn't critical.

**What heat press settings do I need for ColorMaxx Ink?** After printing, to cure and set the ink, you should place a Teflon sheet over the shirt, and press at around 40psi (or low medium pressure for manual presses) for 2 minutes and 20 seconds at 320 degrees Fahrenheit.

**How does ColorMaxx Ink compare with other printer inks?**

We'll stack our ink up against any other direct to garment printer ink available today. Our ink flows as smoothly, lasts as long and prints as brightly as other inks in this category. Where we surpass the other inks is in price. Our ink is substantially less expensive than other inks currently available.

**Why are your ColorMaxx Ink, PreTreat, and CleanJet so much cheaper?**

Because we are a company without layers upon layers of middle and upper management, vice-presidents, and a bunch of "O" titles playing golf, riding in limos, and flying in corporate jets, we don't have to pass all that extra cost along to you. Our people all "wear a lot of different hats" as the saying goes. It also gives us the ability to directly control the quality and more tightly manufacture in smaller, more frequent, higher quality batches. We really just want to provide good products at fair prices. That is what Enmart is all about.

**How do I use the ColorMaxx CleanJet?**

Use CleanJet on KleenMaxx Swabs to clean your capping station, wiper, printhead, or any other areas where you need to perform regular cleaning maintenance. If you or your printer have an extra set of ink tanks or cartridges, you can even fill a set with CleanJet and use it to do a full cleaning and purging of ink from your printer, printhead, and pump assembly prior to taking a much deserved vacation from all those shirts you've been making. As always, refer to your printer manufacturer's specific instructions for cleaning and purging. You can use our CleanJet anywhere in, on, or around your printer where a cleaning fluid is called for.

**Your ColorMaxx PreTreat and White Ink look similar at a glance. What if I mixed the two together?**

We really, really hope you didn't do that. If you want to make glue-like sludge, then go right ahead. If you did this in your printer, then your warranty will most likely be voided. For this reason, we put an orange warning label on the PreTreat. Don't do that. Use the PreTreat for pre-treating garments, and the white ink for printing white, and everything will be just fine. After all, that's partly why our white ink bonds to the PreTreat and lasts so long.