

Sublimation

of DuPont™ Corian®

Image transfer by sublimation is a new way to communicate the work of transformation by designers, engineers and architects.

The sublimation process consists of transferring images into a sheet of Corian®, so that – almost like a human tattoo – a permanent image is created within the surface. Its rapid cycle time allows fast turn-around for proofing, sampling and production of signs, logos, tiles and other design elements.



«Touch Tatroo» kitchen by TM Italia;
decoration designed by Nicoletta Bertolissi.
Photos courtesy of TM Italia.



Gaya Restaurant. Design Christian Ghion.
Paris, France. Photo Jacques Gavard.

Renewable and Thermoformable

The printed Corian® can be then repolished and thermoformed in the same way as unprinted Corian®.

Little impact on the environment

By using water-based inks and low-cost equipment readily available via the Quality Network Member of DuPont, the sublimation process has little impact on the environment and is cost competitive versus other printing techniques or inlays.



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Step by Step



1

Preparing the image to be sublimated

- Save the image in a standard file format (jpeg, tif ...)
Check and – if necessary – adjust the dimensions and resolution with colour management software.
- Print the image onto a low absorption paper using special water-based inks with an ink jet printer.
- Put the paper on the heating device with the printed side up. Then put the sheet of Corian® on top of it. The surface must be perfectly clean and dry.



2

Transferring the image into Corian®

- Cover the Corian® sheet with a silicon cloth cut the same size.
- Put a (preferably phased) piece of e.g. MDF on the silicon cloth.
- Close the table top and switch on the vacuum to generate the required pressure.
- Switch on the table and heat up to approx 180° C. The ink now vaporises and permeates the surface of Corian®.
- Turn off the heat and let the material cool down to ambient temperature.

When the sublimation cycle is completed, the image on the paper has transferred to the Corian®, and has actually become a part of the surface.



3

Cutting and finishing the sublimated Corian® material

- Carefully remove the piece of MDF and the silicon cloth from Corian®. Then remove the paper: the image has been 'sublimated' to Corian®.
- Sit down and take a moment to enjoy the magic of Corian®!
- Corian® surface can now be polished, thermoformed, cut to size