Fabric discoloration occurs when ink reacts with certain dyes in shirts. It typically happens when stacking too hot, moisture or certain dyestuff present in the garment. As a precaution, we recommend the using the Fabric Discoloration Test and follow our recommendations below.

**Fabric Discoloration Test**

The following test will determine if the fabric dyestuffs are prone to discolor:

1. Print ink onto suspect fabric and fuse.
2. Cover the print area with a piece of the suspect fabric (sandwiching the print) and set in a heat press.
3. Set the heat press to 200 F (104 C) and 5 PSI.
4. Close the transfer press and let sit for four hours before evaluation.

If material is prone to discoloration, you will see a “ghost” image of your print on the material that was covering the printed area, as soon in the above image.

As a variation of this procedure, you can apply a water mist to the fabric prior to closing in the heat press. The ghosting reaction occurs faster in the presence of moisture and heat.

**Recommended Stacking Method**

Avoid stacking too hot and too high. The fibers in the garment acts as insulation and retains heat. Excessive heat and moisture in the garment can trigger the reaction.

Using a 3 garment stack approach will allow garments to cool when off loading from the dryer. The first garment should be placed in stack 1, followed by second garment in stack 2, and third in stack 3, then return to stack 1 to begin the rotation again.

Fabric and dye characteristics can exhibit variance between manufacturers and from dye lot to lot. Follow our Fabric Discoloration test for best results.