

Screen Coating Checklist

Preparation:

1. ☐ Check the screen for proper tension and any damage
2. ☐ Select the appropriate mesh count for your project
3. ☐ Ensure the screen is thoroughly cleaned and degreased (don't touch the screen with your hands anymore, as they have oils/fat)
4. ☐ Choose the right emulsion for your ink type and substrate
5. ☐ Mix the emulsion according to the manufacturer's instructions (use wood or plastic, no metal)
6. ☐ Allow the mixed emulsion to sit for a bit to allow air bubbles to escape
7. ☐ Allow the emulsion to acclimate to room temperature before use
8. ☐ Ensure the scoop coater is clean and free of dust or dirt

Coating:

1. ☐ Ensure the coating area is clean, dust-free, and well-ventilated
2. ☐ Set the screen on a level surface
3. ☐ Fill the scoop coater with a good amount of emulsion
4. ☐ Start on the print side and coat the screen with a smooth, even motion
5. ☐ Finish coating on the squeegee side
6. ☐ Check the coating for evenness and consistency
 - If there is too much emulsion on the screen, scoop it off with a dry coater without adding more emulsion to level it
7. ☐ If needed, apply additional coats for desired EOM (Emulsion Over Mesh)

Drying:

1. ☐ Place the coated screen in a clean, UV-free drying area
2. ☐ Ensure the screen is level and the print side is facing down
3. ☐ Allow the screen to dry completely under 30% humidity (use a humidity meter to check)
4. ☐ Check the emulsion for any imperfections or pinholes

Exposure:

1. ☐ Create a high-quality film positive with dense black areas (no light transmission)
2. ☐ Set up your exposure unit with the appropriate settings
3. ☐ Position the film positive on the print side, aligning it for proper registration
4. ☐ Add an exposure wedge to the screen for exposure control
5. ☐ Ensure the film positive seals well and creates a vacuum-like enclosure with the emulsion
6. ☐ Expose the screen for the recommended time based on your emulsion and exposure unit
7. ☐ Remove the film positive and check the exposure quality

Washout and Drying:

1. ☐ Wash out the unexposed emulsion from the squeegee side using lukewarm water and a pressure washer
2. ☐ Check the stencil for any blockages or imperfections
3. ☐ Retouch any imperfections with emulsion and re-expose if needed
4. ☐ Allow the screen to dry completely before use
5. ☐ Note: After washout and drying, there is no need to re-expose the screen, as it does not help to make your screen stronger

Storage and Maintenance:

1. ☐ Store the coated screens in a clean area
2. ☐ Store unused emulsion in a cool place, such as a refrigerator, to extend shelf life
3. ☐ Regularly clean and degrease your screens to maintain quality
4. ☐ Check your emulsion's shelf life and replace as needed
5. ☐ Properly reclaim and reuse screens when possible