Dye sublimation is a transfer process that produces a full-colour, photo-quality reproduction of a digital image using ink that turns into gas when heat is applied. The gas permeates, or dyes, the substrate – becoming an inherent part of whatever material it’s applied to. Dye sublimation is a tremendously versatile technology with applications in apparel, awards, promotional products, signage and much more.

DYE SUBLIMATION PROCESS

IMAGE DESIGN:
Create a customised graphic using professional graphics software. Sublimation images are capable of rendering millions of colours in high resolution to produce photo-quality images as well as vector graphics and text.

PRINTING:
Print your customised graphic to an inkjet printer using sublimation inks on sublimation-compatible paper.

DYEING:
Place the printed image face down on the sublimation-ready surface, such as a 100% polyester T-shirt. You may wish to secure or “tack” the paper to the item with repositionable adhesive spray, found at craft and hardware stores. Place the product and sublimation print under a heat press, following manufacturer directions for temperature and time. (Usually, recommended temperature for T-shirts is around 204º C for about 50 seconds at 30-40 PSI.) Strive to achieve continuous contact between the heated platen and the sublimation transfer. When time is up, use heat protective gloves to remove the transfer. When the item has cooled, it’s ready to wear.