



HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR PRINTS

Inkjet photo printers that use either dye or pigment inks when used in conjunction with the correct type/grade of photo paper can produce prints that when correctly displayed or stored will retain their clarity and colour depth for many years. However, as with other types of photo prints, incorrect handling, displaying, storing or framing will almost certainly result in accelerated print deterioration. As certain environmental factors adversely affect all photographic prints it's impossible to say how soon, or by how much, fading, colour shifts or bleaching [discolouration] will occur.

Print image fixative

With prior agreement prints can be treated with an approved image surface fixative, which improves image stability, increases protection against harmful ultra violet [UV] light, plus helps prevent damage that could be caused by dust, fingerprints, etc., thereby extending print life.

N.B. Compared to non-treated prints the surface of 'fixed' prints will feel slightly rough to the touch, this is normal.

By following the recommendations below it should be possible to significantly reduce the risk factors mentioned within the first paragraph.

Handling your prints

- Handle your prints with great care and touch them at the edges only
- Hold prints on opposite sides with two hands to avoid bends
- Protect from dirt, dust, scratches and fingerprints
- Do not write on your prints [front or back]
- Avoid liquids from coming into contact with your prints
- Avoid any type of mechanical impact
- Wear protective gloves when handling valuable prints

Displaying your prints

Generally there are two types of image degradation that affects displayed prints:

- Light-induced degradation, more commonly called light fade
- Thermally induced degradation, called dark fade

To minimize these adverse effects you should avoid the following:

- Displaying your prints where they will be exposed to direct sunlight for an extended period of time
- Exposing to above average fluorescent lighting
- Avoid areas of hot temperatures and extreme temperature changes

Storing your prints

- Avoid storing or stacking prints facing each other
- Store flat and individually wrapped in archival quality polyester sleeves
- Do not mount in albums with pages containing high acid content
- Only use acid-free storage boxes, which should be placed in a dark, dry cool location and be positioned at a reasonable distance away from any external walls

Framing your prints

The reasons for framing are basically; to enhance your print, focus attention on it, protect it, and give it the proper professional presentation it deserves.

Important do's and don'ts:

- Do not frame or laminate prints for at least two weeks from delivery date [to avoid out-gassing problems]
- Do not mount photographic prints in direct contact with a frame's protective glass
- Do include at least one mat [the 'window-cut' material placed around an image] within a frame

In addition to serving an aesthetic function mats also perform an important practical purpose; they create a narrow, permanent air gap between the print and the frame's protective glass, thereby preventing the print's surface from coming into direct contact with the glass, which over time could cause permanent, irreparable print damage.