# DYE-SUBLIMATION CHECKLIST

## A list of tools and equipment for sublimation success

✓ **Computer (PC or Mac)**

✓ **Design program(s):**

- **Adobe Illustrator (AI)**
  Preferred programs to use when creating large format print files for dye-sublimation printing

- **Adobe Photoshop (PS)**
  The ideal program to use when designing and manipulating photo-based imagery and files for dye-sublimation output

✓ **RIP software program**

- **ErgoSoft Roland Edition** software is available with purchase of Roland DG dye-sublimation printers

- ErgoSoft is PC based software - use emulator software when working in Mac environment

✓ **Dye-sublimation printer**

- Engineered to handle dye-sublimation inks
- Better color and image output with precision firing of smaller ink droplets
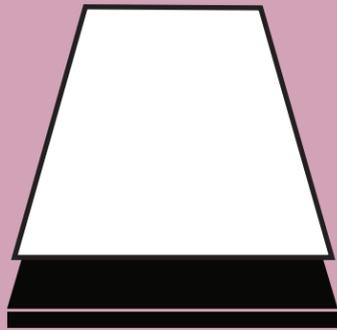
✓ **Dye-sublimation inks**

- Dye-sublimation inks are designed for use with dye-sublimation printers, ie, use Texart™ SBL3 inks with Roland dye-sublimation printers

*Roland's Texart™ printers, inks and media are the perfect start to your dye sublimation business*

✓ **Heat transfer paper**

- Use 90-120 gsm (grams per square metre) for standard applications
- Use heavy papers and clay-coated papers (up to 145 gsm) for hard substrates
- Tack paper is preferred for fabrics, especially for flatbed heat presses
- 3D Vacuum presses require transfer film instead of transfer paper for thermoforming
- Paper with a good coating holds the ink better and releases 90% of ink

✓ **Heat press**

- **Clam press/swing away press**
  Compact press used to transfer onto apparel, T-shirts and small blank items

- **Calender heat press**
  Built for large apparel, soft signage and other roll-fed fabric applications

- **Flatbed heat press**
  Heat transfer onto fabric as well as specially engineered rigid materials

- **3D vacuum heat press**
  Heat transfer onto sublimation blanks and pre-treated regular or irregular shaped 3D objects, like eyeglass frames, bottles and luggage
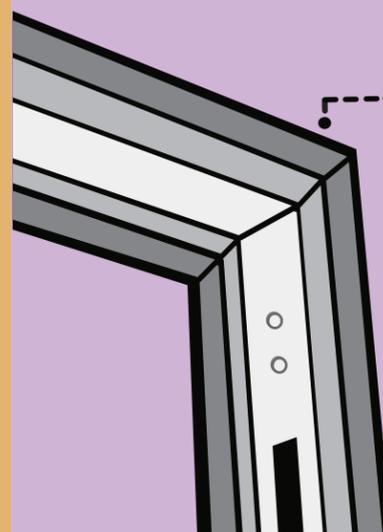
✓ **Dye-sublimation media**

- **Polyester apparel**
  Blank T-shirts, sportswear and other clothing

- **Polyester banner and soft-signage material**

- **Polyester fabric rolls**

- **Blank products**
  Dye-sublimation blanks that are pre-coated with polyester or powder coating , such as ceramic items, metal panels, wood products and other un-printed items

✓ **Production tools**

The following tools are recommended if producing upholstery, soft signage and apparel from scratch.

- **X/Y table cutter or digital flatbed cutter/plotter**

- **Sewing device**
  A sewing machine with auto-command and auto-feed features for large format joint and hemming

- **SEG System**
  a special tension frame system that's used for creating easy-to-install soft signage that includes silicon keder/-beading

- **Dowels, poles**
- **Banner and hanging systems**
- **Sewing pins**
- **Tailors chalk**
- **Sewing threads**
- **Hand tools (drills etc.)**
- **Hot knife (woven fabrics)**
- **Rotary blade/electric scissors (knit fabrics)**

Infographic courtesy of

## Roland®

Discover more about dye-sublimation technology at:

**rolanddga.com/printers/sublimation**