Ecosystem Film Laminators – Since 1996

Ecosystem, manufactured in Northern Italy, has been producing Thermal, and Water-based Film Laminators for 25 years. Headquartered just two hours drive from both Milan and Venice, Ecosystem produce (5) Film Laminator series: the Quick, Compact, Dry, Aqua and Best lines.

Nip rollers, also known as pinch rollers or laminator rollers, are cylinders used to press two or more materials together to form a laminated product. Keeping your rollers clean is crucial for ensuring your Ecosystem Film Laminator is working at its maximum efficiency.

There are five types of contaminants that can get on the nip roller. In this article, we'll discuss what they are and how to clean each type off of the rollers.

Types of Contaminants

1. **Adhesives** – These are the most common type of contaminants. To clean off adhesives, all paper and film must be removed from the laminator. Be sure the laminator is heated up to operational temperature. Run the laminator with the nip closed. This will heat the nip roller which makes it easier to clean. Most of the adhesive will transfer to the chrome roller. With the nip roller hot, use imaging oil, odorless mineral spirits, or rubber roller wash on a cloth and wipe down the nip roller until all the adhesive is removed. Lastly, clean the chrome roller.

2. **Paper Scraps** – The next most common type of contaminant is paper that has been stuck to the adhesive on the nip roller. To remove this paper, you will need water and a yellow Scotchbrite sponge with green abrasive on one side. Soak the sponge in water, then rub the yellow side of the sponge on the paper making sure to saturate the paper with water. Then flip the sponge over and lightly rub the green abrasive side of the sponge over the paper. Be cautious not to press too hard as you do not want to remove any rubber. Once the paper has been removed, follow the adhesive removal instructions given above.

3. **Film Wrap** – The third most common type of contaminant is a film wrap or a part of a wrap. You must remove the film before any chemical will work. To do this, you will need a rubber roller cleaning block. As in the adhesive clean up instructions, run the heated laminator with the nip closed. This will get the nip roller sufficiently hot to activate the adhesive. Once the roller is hot, vigorously rub the rubber block over the edge of the film to peel the edge of it up. Once the edge is peeled up, you can try to pull the film by hand, working small areas at a time. You may have to reheat the roller several times. Once the film is off, follow the adhesive removal instructions in the first section

4. **Ink** – The fourth type of contaminant is ink or toner that is stuck to the roller. To remove this, you will again need a yellow Scotchbrite sponge with green abrasive on one side. This time, however, you will soak it with isopropyl alcohol. Apply the alcohol to the ink, then flip the sponge over to the green abrasive side and carefully rub over the ink. This should clean the ink off of the roller. Again, it is very important to not press too hard! You do not want to remove any of the rubber.

5. **Sleeking Foil** – The final type of contaminant that we will cover is sleeking foil. To remove this, simply apply some imaging oil or odorless mineral spirits to a rag and rub the sleeking foil off of the roller. If the foil is stuck to ink instead of adhesive, then isopropyl may work better.

Review

- ✓ **Adhesives and paper are the most common imposters**
- ✓ **Not all chemicals can be used for each situation**
- ✓ **Measure twice and cut once**
- ✓ **Maintaining your rollers ensures a longer life for your machine**

Chrome Roller Suggestions

- Heat up the roller
- Imaging oil or odorless mineral spirits on a soft cloth will remove adhesive from the chrome roller
- **Do not use an abrasive material on chrome roller!**
- Isopropyl alcohol will remove ink, but do not do this while the roller is hot as the IPA will evaporate and cause burn

+1.262.522.3330
sales@bestgraphics.net
bestgraphics.net

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