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**IMPROPER CLEANING CAN
DAMAGE YOUR CYREL® PLATES**

Proper cleaning of Cyrel® printing plates and use of compatible solvents and cleanup solutions continue to be a problem with flexographic printers. Just as printing inks must be selected to achieve the best results, so should plate cleaning solutions and tools. Do you know what solutions and tools your operators are using on press to clean the plate? Do you know if the additives used during the press run are compatible with the plate?

First of all, starting with a properly exposed, processed, dried and light finished plate can minimize press-related problems and optimize plate life. An improperly made plate can wear prematurely. If process dots are falling off your plate, check the exposure times used to image the plate (too much/too little, is relief too high), check for compatibility of inks and plate cleaners (are the plates swelling), check that you have the correct cleaning tool. Aggressive solvents and plate cleaners can add stress to the plate, making it more susceptible to swelling, chipping, softening and cracking. The wrong cleaning tool can scratch the plate or cause dots to chip or fall off, thus ruining the image.

Start the new year with a proper plate cleaning and storage program. Refer to the checklist below and protect your investment in Cyrel® printing plates!

Cyrel® Plate Cleaning Checklist

- **Clean plates immediately after press run**
(Do not allow ink to dry on the plates.)
- **Use a compatible plate cleaner**
(Check Cyrel® Ink Compatibility Guide.)
- **Use a soft, natural bristle brush**
(Do not use wire or stiff-bristled brushes.)
- **Wipe, do not scrub the plate**
- **Use a generous amount of compatible cleaning solution** to loosen the ink.
Use a lint-free towel to wipe it off. Forced air may also be used.
- **Refer to “A Guide to Handling, Cleaning and Storing Cyrel® Photopolymer Printing Plates,”** available from DuPont.

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