



Title: **Printing on Tiles with the Gerber Solara ion™ & Gerber CAT | UV™**

Product: Gerber Solara ion & Gerber CAT | UV

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Summary: This document explains the important precautions and hints necessary to produce a good result when printing on tiles with a Gerber Solara ion and Gerber CAT | UV.

Rigid Substrate Standards

- ◆ Maximum rigid material width is 64" (1.6m/162.6cm).
- ◆ Maximum rigid material thickness is 1" (25.4mm).
- ◆ Maximum rigid material length with roll-to-roll option is 120" (3m/304.8cm).
- ◆ Maximum rigid material length without roll-to-roll option is 100" (2.5m/254cm).
- ◆ Minimum sheet size is 12" x 12" (30.5cm x 30.5cm). (See "Printing Small Jobs" later in this document.)
- ◆ **Rigid material must be flat within 0.03" (0.76mm).**
- ◆ Warped material may jam in the printer.

Preparing/Cleaning the Tiles

- ◆ Properly prepare the tile by making sure it contains no rough or uneven edges that pose the risk of a head strike.
- ◆ The tiles to be printed must be wiped clean of any dust and debris.
- ◆ Wipe the tiles with a clean, damp cloth using a fluid motion in one direction, pushing the dirt off the edge of the substrate.
- ◆ Do not wipe the tiles using a circular motion which can result in moving the dirt around into swirled patterns which may be visible after printing.
- ◆ Wait until the tile is fully dry before loading or printing on the substrate.

Helpful Hints for Printing on Tiles

- ◆ For tiles that are extremely rough or bumpy, refer to the Application Note "Printing on Rough Materials."

- ◆ Tiles that are extremely non-porous might not accept ink well, so make sure you test each type of tile on which you print.

Printing Small Tiles

- ◆ When printing on small tiles (when the graphic width is less than 48" (122cm)), UV curing may be less than optimal when using 360 two-pass bidirectional mode for the ion or Performance modes for the CAT | UV.
- ◆ To ensure proper ink curing, create a repeat job and arrange the tiles across the table with no gaps between tiles so that the total width is more than 48" (122cm).
- ◆ Use 8-pass unidirectional mode for best results with the ion and Quality modes for best results with the CAT | UV.
- ◆ Make sure humidity is at the low end of the specification of 20 to 60%, non-condensing.

