

# SCREEN PREP FOR USED SCREENS



Tech Sheets are written by Bob and Kathy Drake. We hope they make your life a little easier. Please call us if you have any other questions.

For more information contact:

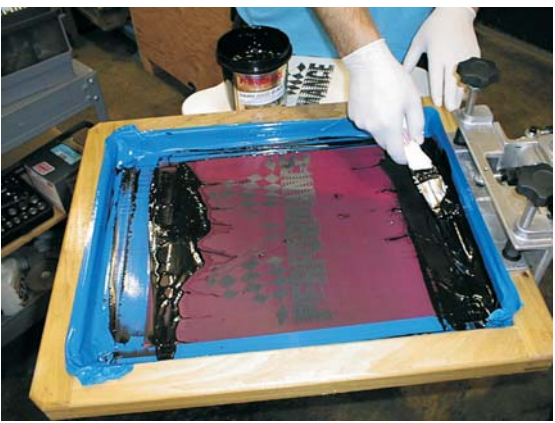
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While screen is clamped into press, scrape out leftover ink with an "INK KNIFE" and return it to the ink bucket.



Keeping the screen clamped helps prevent mesh damage during cleanup.

Pull tape off of screen and discard. It's easy to remove the tape if you tape the sides of the screen in a clockwise direction. This way all the pieces of tape come off together when pulled in the same direction.



Spread several layers of newspaper on the table. Spray "BOB'S SCREEN WASH" or "BOB'S SOY BEAN WASH" on the dirty screen and wipe with a clean "WIPING CLOTH" or rag. Repeat process until screen is clean. Flip screen over and clean other side. Wearing "DISPOSABLE RUBBER GLOVES" will keep your hands clean and speed the process. While ink is never allowed to go down the drain, it is usually acceptable as regular solid waste (garbage). Check with your landfill if you are unsure. Some printers will run their dirty rags through the conveyor dryer to cure the ink before disposal.



Place screen in "WASHOUT SINK". Spray both sides of screen liberally with "BOB'S LIQUID RECLAIMER". Scrub in a circular motion with a "SCREEN BRUSH" (Do not use the same brush used for abrading and degreasing. This will prevent screen contamination.)



Put on "SAFETY GOGGLES" and use electric "PRESSURE WASHER" to remove emulsion from screen. **Spray from bottom to top of screen.** A left to right, up and down pattern removing 8 to 10 inches of emulsion per swipe works well. Never start at the top of the screen when pressure washing, because it will dilute the strength of the reclaimer at the bottom of the screen. Repeat as needed. A 1000 psi pressure washer is the minimum for reclaiming. (1500 to 3000 psi is even better.)



Spray both sides of screen liberally with "BOB'S HAZE REDUCER AND DEGREASER". Scrub in a circular motion with a "SCREEN BRUSH". (Do not use the same brush used for reclaiming. This will prevent screen contamination.) Rinse screen brush thoroughly between screens to prevent contaminants from one screen being carried to the next.

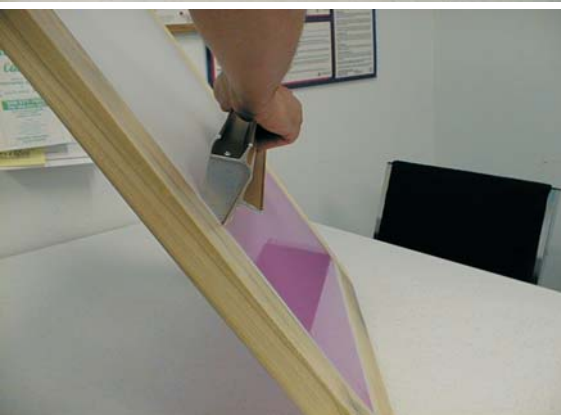


Put on "SAFETY GOGGLES" and use electric "PRESSURE WASHER" to remove "BOB'S HAZE REDUCER AND DEGREASER" from screen. **Spray from bottom to top of screen.** A left to right, up and down pattern removing 8 to 10 inches of emulsion per swipe works well. Never start at the top of the screen when pressure washing, because it will dilute the strength of the chemical at the bottom of the screen. "BOB'S HAZE REDUCER AND DEGREASER" is an environment concerned product and will remove most haze from the screen. A repeat application is not usually needed, but maybe used if desired.

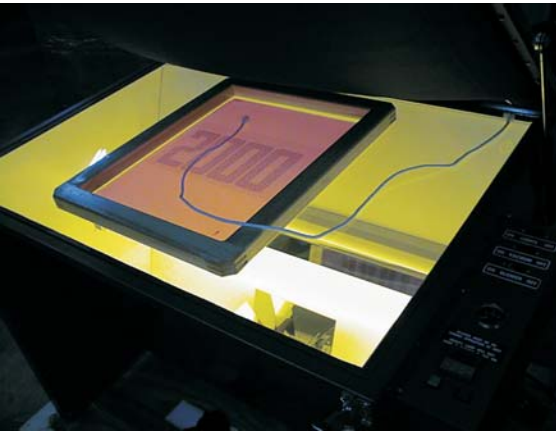


Select a "SCOOP COATER" that is 2 inches shorter than the inside dimension of the screen. Remove protective rubber cover from sharp edge of coater. Run your finger along the sharp edge to make sure there are no nicks (200 grit sand paper can be used to remove minor nicks, otherwise replace the coater if damaged.)

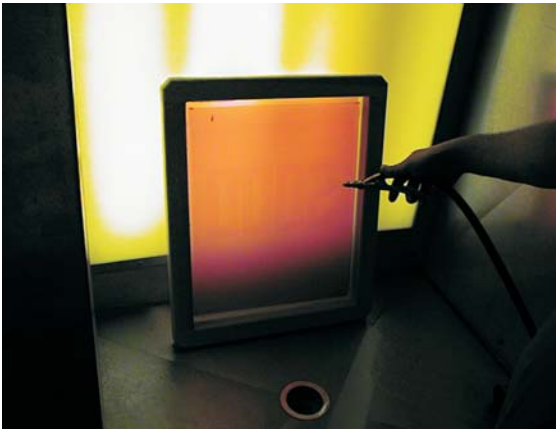
Work under yellow safe light (or under subdued light if you work very quickly!) Fill scoop coater 2/3 of the way with the "S.E.X. PHOTOPOLYMER EMULSION".



Tilt screen on a 45 degree angle. Press scoop coater against mesh at the bottom of the print side of the screen. Tilt scoop coater until angle guides on coater contact screen mesh. Wait for emulsion to come into complete contact with mesh. Press scoop coater firmly against mesh and slowly scrape up the screen. When you reach top of screen, tilt screen and coater straight up and remove coater from screen. Repeat process on squeegee side of screen. Store screen flat under yellow light conditions (or complete darkness) until dry (approximately 2 to 8 hours). Storage temp. should be 70 to 80 degrees (40 to 90 max range). A dehumidifier and air conditioner can be used to speed drying process.



Clean “EXPOSURE UNIT” glass with glass cleaner and paper towels. To expose screen, place film positive on center of exposure unit glass (right reading for direct printing or mirror reading for heat transfers). Place screen, print side down on top of film positive. Drape exposure unit rope, if applicable, over screen and under vacuum fitting. Close lid on exposure unit. Allow vacuum to suck screen to 15 psi minimum. Turn on exposure lights. Correct exposure time is determined through trial and error. Time should be long enough to sufficiently harden the screen, yet short enough that the unexposed areas can be washed out. An “EXPOSURE CALCULATOR” is helpful for determining correct exposure time.



Remove screen from exposure unit when exposure is complete. Place screen in “WASHOUT SINK” and wet both sides with cold water. (Sink should not have white back lights or be near a window or door. Washout can not be done outside!) Keep both side of screen wet for 2 to 3 minutes (Do not use high water pressure!)



When emulsion starts to fall out of unexposed areas of the screen, use “WASHOUT HOSE” to provide a more precise spray. Wash out unexposed screen areas thoroughly. Hold screen up to light for final check that all details have washed out. Using garden hose do a final rinse of screen mesh and screen frame to flush any remaining emulsion particles. Dry screen frame with paper towel (not screen mesh) and place screen in front of fan to dry. After washout, screens can also be placed outside in the sun to dry.

If screen “scumming” (open mesh area clogged by thin, shiny emulsion residue) occurs the following can solve the problem:

1. Increase exposure time by 10 to 25 percent.
2. Thoroughly rinse screen after washout.
3. Dry screen horizontally in front of fan or  
Blow screens dry with compressed air or  
Blot screens dry with clean unprinted newspaper.