

***Varnish***

# Varnish

## WHAT IS A VARNISH?

A thin coat of clear liquid that is applied to a printed sheet for added protection or for aesthetic purposes.

It is treated like ink on the printing press and is applied at the very end of a print job.

Like coated paper varnishes come in various sheens, gloss, matte and dull. The two popular sheens are gloss and dull.

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## **FLOOD VARNISH**

When varnish is applied to the entire sheet. The printer is opening up the flood gates, and coating the entire page.

This just needs to be mentioned on the spec sheet and the printer will set up the press so that an even coating is applied to a job.

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## SPOT VARNISH

When varnish is applied to only a specific area of the sheet. Normally accentuating a component on the page or a graphic element.

The spot varnish not only needs to be indicated on the spec sheet, but within the computer file. The spot varnish would be treated the same way as a die-cut in a digital file, because it would output as a separate layer, so it would need to be indicated as a spot color in the digital file. When using both die-cuts and spot varnishes both should be indicated by two different spot colors.

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## UV

This is a varnish that can be applied in thick coats and hardens under UV light.

This varnish looks extremely glossy, and normally coats one side of the page. It is often confused with cast-coated paper. One way of distinguishing the two apart is, UV is so sleek you can practically skate across the surface.

## LAMINATE

A plastic layer that is applied to paper using heat. This feature usually adds to the thickness of the sheet.

This is commonly found in protecting ID cards.

