



Anilox Roller Care & Handling

The Anilox Roller is an integral part of the flexographic printing press. The key factor in metering ink in the flexographic printing process is the Anilox Roller. Engraved with cells that act as the carriers of exact quantities of ink, the Anilox Roller must maintain its integrity through cleanliness. An Anilox Roller with plugged cells will deliver reduced amounts of ink, shifting color from the acceptable standards for the graphics.

Roll Arrival

- When a new roller arrives, inspect the crate to ensure there is no physical damage to the outside (loose boards, broken boards, etc.). If there is damage to the crate, notify the carrier to establish responsibility.
- Remove the roll from the shipping container and remove protective wrap.
- Inspect the roll for visible damage such as scratches, dings, or dents which may affect print quality.
- Inspect engraved surface of rollers with magnification and document characteristics; if possible, take pictures.

On The Press

- Handle Anilox Rollers carefully. Lift roll with a 12" basket sling, if possible. Do not lift with thin strap in center, or flexible straps on the journals. Never rest the roller on its surface, this can damage the engraved surface and cause defects in print. If possible, support roller from journals.
- When loading an Anilox Roller into the press, if possible, cover the roller body with a roll wrap, foam covering, or fluted cardboard to protect the engraved surface from being damaged by impact against a hard surface such as the machine frame. Chipped ceramic on the dead band areas of the roller can eventually lead to inks and solvent leaching under the ceramic. This will reduce the life of the roller.
- Once the Anilox Roller is loaded into the press, never run the roller dry with the ink chamber loaded against the roller, this will cause excessive wear to the doctor blades as well as score the Anilox Roller.
- When ink is in the chambers, keep the roller running so the cells do not become plugged with dry ink.



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Cleaning

- Clean the Anilox Rollers in the press immediately upon stopping the ink flow and roll rotation. Flush the chamber as usual and then use a stainless bristle brush (in a circular motion) with the appropriate cleaner. Make sure to thoroughly dry Anilox Roller with lint free wipes or rags.
- Cleaning the Anilox Roller when the ink is wet will minimize the need for off-press cleaning systems.
- Do not use cleaners that are too acidic or caustic.
- When using a soda blast or similar cleaning system, wipe the rolls down after cleaning. The soda used to clean the rollers can cause damage to bearings and other precision machine parts if they are exposed.

Storage

- Store rollers safely in crate or rack.
- Keep rollers covered with protective covers, foam or fluted cardboard to avoid damage and dust. Do not use a protective cover on a wet Anilox Roller.