

# Getting Started with the Heat Press

This training will cover the basics of using the heat press at the REEF. You will go over important safety practices and general tips and tricks to get you started.

## What is the Heat Press?

The Heat Press is used for transferring images (printed using the dye sublimation printer) to a substrate material. The heat press does this by applying heat and pressure to the dye sublimation paper. It ensures even heat distribution and precise temperature control, enabling durable, high-quality prints. The process involves placing vinyl on the substrate, applying pressure, and setting a specific time and temperature.

## Quick Steps

Below are the basic steps for operating the heat press:

1. Before turning on:
  - a. Ensure there is nothing between the platens (large plates) of the heat press
  - b. Adjust pressure: If you are transferring to a particularly thick/tall object, you may want to adjust your pressure based on the thickness of the object. See the QR code below for adjusting the pressure
2. Turn on the heat press using the on-off switch under the left side of the top swing arm
3. Set your temperature based on the material you are transferring to by clicking the temp button and using the arrows to adjust (see the laminated sheet on the dye sublimation table).
4. Swing the arm of the heat press off to the right so you have open access to the bottom platen.
5. Place a piece of parchment paper on the foam surface of the bottom platen. You can use a piece of Kapton tape to secure it to the base.
6. Place your substrate material (the material or object you are transferring to) on top of the parchment paper on the bottom platen
7. Attach your dye sublimation paper with the image you are transferring on your object where you would like to transfer the image. You can attach the paper using Kapton tape to help secure it.
8. Cover the dye sublimation paper with another piece of parchment paper to help reduce image burn or overexposure.
9. Swing the heat press arm until it is over your material and the sublimation paper.
10. Using both hands, pull the handle toward you until you feel it clamp fully on your work piece. Then wait the required amount of time for sublimation (based on the material - see the sheet on the table).

**\*A STAFF MEMBER WILL NEED TO APPROVE YOUR SAFETY TRAINING BEFORE OPERATING THE MACHINE**



## Safety Precautions

**Clean Workspace.** The heat press can be extremely hot, so keeping a clean workspace helps prevent accidental burns, fires, or damage to nearby objects and ensures you can safely maneuver your tools without obstruction.

## Guide Videos/Tutorials



Heat Press - Basic tutorial

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2\\_ndENaNzY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2_ndENaNzY)



Pressure Adjustments

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLj-aJCe7fc>