

# Pretreat Basics



## Why It Matters:

Pretreatment plays a vital role in direct-to-garment (DTG) printing by enhancing both the quality and longevity of the print. It works like a primer, helping the ink bond effectively to the fabric, particularly important when printing on dark garments that require a white ink base.



## When to Use Pretreatment:

- **Dark Garments:** Always pretreat when printing on dark-colored fabrics. White ink needs a treated surface to bond properly creating a vibrant print.
- **Light Garments:** Pretreatment is optional for lighter fabrics, but it can still boost color brightness and improve how long the print lasts.



## How It Works:

The pretreatment liquid fills the gaps between fabric threads, forming a film-like surface that gives the ink something to cling to.



## Types of Pretreatment Solutions:

Different solutions are available depending on your DTG printer and the type of fabric you're using. Choosing the right one ensures the best print quality.



## How to Apply Pretreatment:

Spray the solution evenly across the garment, then heat-press it to set the layer. This step also flattens the fabric, prepping it for printing.



## Benefits of a Proper Pretreat:

- **Strong Bond:** White ink stays on the surface, resulting in bolder and sharper prints.
- **Brighter Colors:** With a solid white base, CMYK inks appear more vivid.
- **Improved Durability:** Pretreated garments hold up better through repeated washing and wear keeping colors vibrant for longer.