

Post Exposure Recommendations for Tack-Free Plates

Post exposure is a critical step in producing tack-free AVantage[®] photopolymer printing plates. The quantity of post exposure salt, lamp intensity, post exposure time, having a clean post exposure bath, plus the frequency of bath changes will all impact the quality of the finished plate. Recommendations for proper salt concentration and time of post exposure are provided below.

Concentration of Post-X Salt Bath:

3040/3048 unit	1.5 lbs per day
4460 unit	2.5 lbs per day
5280 unit	3.5 lbs per day

Per day rates are presented here because the post exposure bath should be clean and clear for the best Post-X results. Once the bath turns cloudy it will filter the UV light during Post-X. *Changing the Post-X bath daily is recommended.*

Mixing: Post-X salt should be pre-dissolved in water using a one or two-gallon container, then pour the solution into the Post-X bath water. The Post-X bath water level should be deep enough to completely cover the plate.

Lamps: New lamps will range in intensity from 15-20 mW/cm² when measured with a UV light meter. After a short “burn-in” period the lamps intensity will level off to around 15-18 mW/cm². Bulbs should be replaced once the intensity falls to 7 mW/cm². Bulb life is dependent upon the hours they are used. Bulbs should last approximately one year under typical production conditions.

Exposure Times: The correct Post-X exposure time is dependent upon lamp intensity. The following is the recommended guideline:

Average lamp intensity reading	Post-X Time
9.0 mW/cm ² or higher	15 minutes
8.0 - 9.0 mW/cm ²	20 minutes
7.0 - 8.0 mW/cm ²	25 minutes