

Water-wash Platemaking Guidelines

- 1. When should a customer check the caliper or thickness of the plate?**
 - a. The customer should verify the material gauge for each new batch of material before processing, as well as measuring every plate after washout.

- 2. What process is used to determine the proper plate relief?**
 - a. A back-exposure step-test, with the micrometer for verifying thickness.
 - b. Ideal relief on digital plates is 0.018" – 0.022".

- 3. What facility components need to be inspected prior to a water-wash equipment installation?**
 - a. Water Hardness: pull a sample and ship to Roy Willitzer in Bryan for evaluation.
 - i. If the water is too hard, a water-softener may be required.
 - b. Optimal Power Supply.
 - i. See Pre-installation guide by AV Engineering team for full specifications.
 - c. Can the Equipment easily fit through doors & pass by other equipment to be placed?
 - d. Optimal Water Supply.
 - e. Sink for Rinsing (Recommended).

- 4. What is the proper pH range of the water-wash water?**
 - a. Above 9.8
 - i. If pH drops below 9.8, soap must be added.
 - ii. Soaps should be verified & approved by AV Technologies & Engineering Teams.

- 5. How often should the pH of the water be checked by the operator?**
 - a. Every 4 plates.

- 6. What are the possible effects from improper brush settings?**
 - a. Too shallow of a floor, brush marks on the floor, improper washout inconsistent brush wear.

- 7. What happens if a plate is over-washed?**
 - a. There is risk to removing small dots.

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8. What happens if a plate is under-washed?

- a. There will be left-over polymer residue, inconsistent dot size, and inconsistent floors.

9. What is the proper drying temperature for Cosmolight?

- a. 140 degrees Fahrenheit (at 150 degrees the polyester back could begin to distort).
- b. Be sure to measure with a thermometer at both sides (left and right) of the dryer drawers.

10. What do you do with the Cosmolight waste-water when draining/cleaning the Whirl-away or Cosmolight tank?

- a. Do not put the waste water down the drain! First, check with local water regulations and have the sample tested. Most Cosmolight customers should be draining the wastewater into a plastic-bag lined 5 gallon bucket; then adding a solidifying agent. Once the water has turned to a solid, the bag can be thrown in the trash.

11. What is the proper temperature range of the Cosmolight water?

- a. 105-110 degrees Fahrenheit.