



#### Rogers Corporation

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## Rogers Dampening Sleeves Cleaning Guidelines

A good wash-up (cleaning) of the dampening and inking systems is critical for optimum print quality on a consistent basis. Poor wash-up causes glazing of the ink rollers, resulting in printing problems, which cost time and money. Glazed rollers do not transfer ink properly. This leads to difficulty in obtaining and maintaining good ink water balance. A good wash-up also prevents cross-contamination of inks and eliminates imperfections on the finished print due to old ink deposits that remain in the system. Consistent cleaning and maintenance of the dampening and inking systems should help achieve shorter start-ups, higher print quality, and a safer work environment while reducing downtime.

Improper maintenance and cleaning of rollers in the dampening system can cause significant water or fountain solution transfer problems. This usually occurs if ink is allowed to get into the dampening system or if rollers, with or without covers, are cleaned with solvents that result in the roller surfaces becoming hydrophobic (water repelling).

**It is recommended that the dampening sleeves be cleaned after each press run.** This is to keep the surface of the sleeves hydrophilic (water loving) and maintain their water carrying capacity. If the sleeve-covered rollers are not to be used immediately, it is recommended that the rollers be cleaned and stored in plastic bags, wrapped in plastic or left in a shallow reservoir of water. This is to keep the sleeves from drying out which can ultimately lead to ink build up and splitting of the sleeves due to repeating drying cycles.

Do not use cleaners that contain solvents that are not compatible with rubber rollers. This could cause the rubber to swell or to degrade. Clean both the pan and oscillator rollers frequently to make certain that they retain a high affinity for water. This is typically accomplished by a thorough cleaning and then treating with a gum etch. Let the gum etch dry on the roller. The roller should then be wet down to see if the water beads. If beading is seen, the cleaning procedure must be repeated until beading is no longer observed.

The information and guidelines contained in this document are intended to assist you in the use of Rogers Dampening Sleeves. **They are not intended to and do not create any warranties express or implied, including, but not limited to, any warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular application.** Results may vary as conditions and equipment vary. It is up to the user to determine the suitability of each of the guidelines for its application and circumstances.

### To Clean Dampening Sleeves on Press

1. Apply Rogers Cleaner Conditioner or other suitable cleaner to a clean, dry cloth, and thoroughly wipe the dampening sleeve.
2. Wipe the dampening sleeve with a clean, water-dampened cloth to remove excess cleaner conditioner.

### To Clean Dampening Sleeves Off Press

**Note:** If petroleum-based cleaners, (kerosene or gasoline) are used, a final wash of the roller or dampening sleeve is required using a water-based detergent. After washing, rinse thoroughly with water before using. This is to ensure that the roller's or dampening sleeve's surface or cover remains hydrophilic (water loving).

#### *Lightly Soiled Dampening Sleeves*

1. Apply Rogers Cleaner Conditioner or other suitable cleaner to a clean, dry cloth or soft-bristle brush, and thoroughly wipe the dampening sleeve.
2. Rinse thoroughly with water.

#### *Heavily Soiled Dampening Sleeve*

1. Apply a non-oily solvent to a clean, dry cloth or soft-bristle brush, and thoroughly wipe the dampening sleeve.
2. Apply Rogers Cleaner Conditioner or other suitable cleaner to a clean, dry cloth, and thoroughly wipe the dampening sleeve.
3. Rinse thoroughly with water.

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