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UV Ink Storage  
Best Practices

## Quick Tips

- When placing new ink in a cabinet, move the older ink to the front so it gets used first.
- It is always a good practice to wear eye protection when handling chemicals and liquids. UV inks are no different. Protect your eyes.
- Avoid storing waste ink in previously emptied bottles that have a label of another colored ink. This can cause an inexperienced or unfamiliar operator to install the wrong color in the tank. Remark any bottles as clearly holding waste.

## Proper UV/LED Ink Storage

The ink jet industry has become heavily reliant on UV curable inks. The versatility and performance of UV curable inks have increased the number of applications that are possible with Ink Jet printing. UV curable inks, by nature are highly reactive mixtures of chemical compounds. Each of these compounds contribute toward the performance of the ink. Being a highly reactive mixture of chemical compounds, the ink must be stored and managed properly. If proper storage and handling is not used, one can expect a shortened shelf life at the best case, and very costly printer damage in the worst case. There are critical physical properties of the ink that must remain within the capability of the printer and the print heads. Let's review the best practices.

- **Temperature.** Generally, UV Curable Ink Jet Inks should be stored between the temperatures of 5-40C (41-104F).
  - If your ink is exposed to temperatures lower than 5C (41F), you should dispose of this ink.
  - It is never a good idea to use inks stored above 40C (104F).
- **Protect them from light.** Even though typical ink packaging is opaque or "light blocking," there is always an amount of light penetration.
  - Do not store in a location with sunlight, either through windows, skylights or direct. The lighting in the area should have UV light filters installed. A good practice is to leave the bottles of ink in the corrugated packaging when they arrive.
  - Do not use a flashlight to look in an open ink bottle. This light may quickly turn a perfectly good ink into a destabilized mixture.
- **Put inks in a well-ventilated area.** Even though inks are sealed in bottles and other packaging, there could be small molecules that can migrate through the bottle and may cause the ink storage area to have an offensive odor.

*The best storage of UV ink is in an area that is temperature controlled, UV filtered lighting, and well ventilated.*