

TROUBLESHOOTING FOR SHEETFED AND WEB PRESSES

SNOWFLAKY SOLIDS : Printed ink film solids with minute white spots or holes.

CAUSES

1. Excessive water relative to the ink film thickness. The ink absorbs the excess water – therefore, when the ink film is split on the plate or blanket, water droplets are exposed. The droplets prevent uniform ink transfer.
2. Inadequate pressure between the plate and blanket, and the blanket and impression cylinders.
3. Blanket piling.
4. Picking.
5. Poor quality of water. Hard water being used.
6. Too much alcohol substitute being used.

REMEDIES

1. a) Decrease the water feed. Add alcohol or an alcohol substitute.
b) Increase the ink feed.
c) Switch to a less water-receptive ink.
d) Install an airflow system on the front (feeder) side of the inking system to evaporate water from the ink.
2. a) Check the plate-to-blanket pressure with a packing gauge. Assure that both are packed to recommended height.
b) Increase the back pressure.
3. See PILING section in this guide.
4. See PICKING section in this guide.
5. Use deionized, reverse-osmosis (RO) or distilled water.
6. Reduce percentage of alcohol substitute being used.

