

Continuous Dampener Roller Care

All Continuous Dampeners that utilize the nip width of 'soft' rubber rolls and the 'ink's tack' to carry moisture to the plate are designed to operate with a specific roller durometer/hardness and surface finish.

The roller's surface finish and hardness change when exposed to ink, solvents, plate and fountain chemicals, and paper bi-products, becoming gradually harder and smoother with use/age. On average you should expect your soft dampener rolls to have an effective use life of 10 to 14 months if properly cared for. Over-use of strong deglazers, rubber rejuvenators, and desensitizers remove surface plasticizers and significantly shorten the use-life of new rollers, and for this reason it is strongly recommend that solvents stronger than roller wash not be used during the first two weeks of use during initial 'break-in', or surface 'conditioning' period of all 'new soft rollers'. ➡ This applies to both Ink and Dampener Rollers.

Over-use of strong solvents removes roller's surface conditioning to where they cannot hold and carry ink properly, causing ink to strip from rollers, producing toning and ink banding across the plate, leaving excess ink build-up on blanket around sheets.

Once new dampener rollers have been in use for a few weeks, it is recommended that a good water-miscible roller wash (appropriately diluted to manufacturers' specifications) be used as your dampener wash, followed up with a final rinse of a mixture of 15% white kitchen vinegar and tap water. This final rinse serves to flush out and neutralize all traces of the strong detergents and solvents used in water-miscible washes that dissolves paper contaminates. A water/vinegar rinse leaves rollers with a clean and mildly acidic surface that has a stronger affinity to accept ink.

After new rollers are a couple of months old, an occasional application of an ink roller desensitizer/deglazer is used as a 'preventive maintenance measure' to remove the papers' contaminates that petroleum solvents alone cannot remove from roller pores.

After using Revitol always rinse your rollers, first with an application of water-miscible roller wash and then vinegar/water rinse.