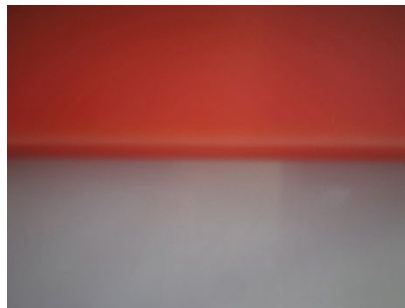


Are you sharpening your squeegees?

After using a squeegee for a long period of time, friction with the screen causes the edge of the squeegee to wear down. Picture 1 shows a worn squeegee. Compared to a squeegee immediately after sharpening as shown in the Picture 2, the edge of the worn squeegee has uneven parts. Pictures 3 and 4 show print results when squeegees of Pictures 1 and 2, respectively, are used. When printed with the worn squeegee, streaks are evident in the print image, compared to that of the sharpened squeegee.



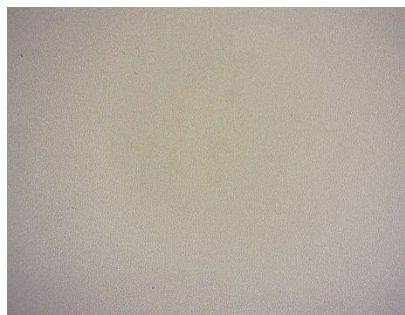
Picture 1 Worn squeegee



Picture 2 Squeegee immediately after sharpening



Picture 3 Printed with the worn squeegee



Picture 4 Printed with the squeegee immediately after sharpening

Print film thickness is measured using a surface roughness gauge and the results are shown in Figures 1 and 2. When the surface of squeegee is uneven, variation in film thickness becomes large.

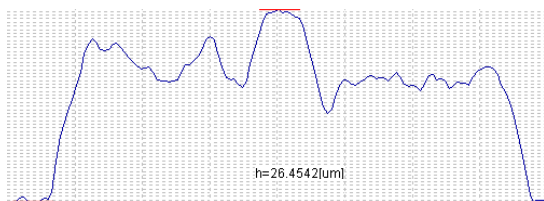


Figure 1 Surface roughness of Picture 3

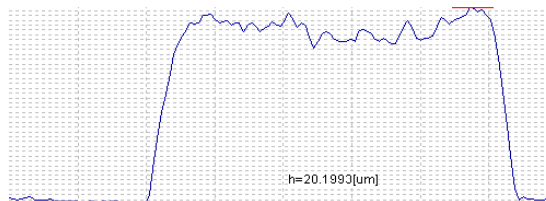


Figure 2 Surface roughness of Picture 4

Uneven print film thickness has significant effect on product quality. For example, characteristics such as electric resistance and current capacity in electronic devices are affected.

To obtain uniform print film thickness, it is important to sharpen squeegees to always maintain uniform edges by using squeegee sharpeners.

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