Printing Methods Compared: DTF vs DTG vs Sublimation vs Screen vs Laser

Which printing or decoration method suits your gift, merchandise or uniform? A side-by-side comparison from the Printshop4me team.

Method	Best for	Materials	Colours / photos	Durability	Good from
DTF	Apparel of any colour	Cotton, poly, blends	Full colour, photos	High	1 piece
DTG	Soft-feel photo tees	Light cotton	Full colour, photos	Medium–high	1 piece
Sublimation	Mugs, tumblers, polyester	Polyester, coated blanks	Full colour, edge to edge	Very high (no cracking)	1 piece
Screen printing	Bulk tees, bags	Most fabrics	Solid spot colours	Very high	about 25 pieces
Embroidery	Polos, caps, uniforms	Most fabrics	Thread colours, no photos	Very high	1 piece (setup fee)
Heat transfer vinyl	Names and numbers	Most fabrics	Solid colours	Medium–high	1 piece
Laser engraving	Timber, leather, metal, glass	Hard goods	Tone-on-tone, no ink	Permanent	1 piece
UV printing	Acrylic, timber, phone cases	Hard flat items	Full colour, photos	High	1 piece

Quick picks

- **One-off photo gift on a mug:** sublimation.
- **Name on a dark hoodie:** DTF.
- **50 staff polos with a logo:** embroidery.
- **Keepsake that never fades:** laser engraving.
- **200 event tees in two colours:** screen printing.

Not sure? Chat with us or WhatsApp +61 450 673 352 and we will recommend the right method.

Cite: Printshop4me (2026). https://printshop4me.au/resources/printing-methods-comparison/