

HOW LONG DO I NEED TO WAIT BEFORE VARNISHING A PRINT? WHAT ABOUT STRETCHING?



Almost every aqueous printer on the market seems to have prints dry as soon as the print is complete. But are they really dry? In looking at inkjet canvas, you have certainly noticed a texture and weave, but did you notice the peaks and valleys? Canvas absorbs a little more ink than a standard photo paper (where ink dries on top of the inkjet receptive varnish, thus requiring less ink). Many people have heard the term “outgas” used when referring to canvas dry time. This is referring to water evaporating from the ink during the drying process. This is why it is also important not to stack prints until they are completely dry. Our general rule is to wait 24 hours before varnishing a print, to allow outgassing to complete. In some cases, printing in the afternoon and varnishing the following morning is fine, but giving yourself more time in between is always best.