

Heat Press Safety Guidelines and Tips for Cricut AutoPress & DK20S

General Heat Press Safety Guidelines

1. Read the Manual

- Always read the user manuals for both the **Cricut AutoPress** and the **DK20S** to familiarize yourself with their features, settings, and safety precautions. This ensures proper use and reduces the risk of accidents.
- Manuals are available for each machine on their respective reservation pages.

2. Supervision & Training

- Makerspace Members between the ages of 9-15 are prohibited from using the heat press under any circumstances.
- If a member between 9-15 would like to create a project that requires Heat Press use, they must complete the Heat Press training along with their parent/guardian. However, the parent/guardian must be the only person operating the heat press.
- Inexperienced users should never operate or interact with the machines.

3. Wear Protective Gear

- **Heat-Resistant Gloves:** Always wear heat-resistant gloves when handling heated materials or the press plates. This is especially important when transferring items or adjusting the heat press.
- **Closed-Toe Shoes:** Wear closed-toe shoes to protect your feet from potential hot spills, burns, or accidents.

4. Workspace Organization

- Keep the work area clean and organized. Ensure there are no obstacles around the machines that could cause tripping or obstruct the press plates' movement.
- Keep the heat press area clear of flammable materials, such as paper towels, cloth, or fabric that are not part of the heat transfer.

5. Inspect the Machines

- **Check for damage** before each use. Inspect the **Cricut AutoPress** and **DK20S** for any visible damage or malfunctioning parts. Ensure the heating plates, control panels, and electrical cords are in good condition.
- Make sure the **Cricut AutoPress** has been calibrated properly and that the **DK20S** has the correct temperature settings for the materials being used.

6. Turn Off and Unplug

- Always turn off the machine when not in use, and unplug it from the power source if you will be away from the workstation for an extended period. This helps prevent overheating and reduces energy consumption.

Cricut AutoPress Safety Tips

1. Safe Operation

- The **Cricut AutoPress** automatically adjusts the pressure based on the material's thickness. Be sure that the item being pressed is positioned properly before closing the lid.
- Never attempt to manually force the lid closed or open the press while the machine is operating.
- The **Cricut AutoPress** has a digital screen for controlling temperature and time settings. Always double-check the settings for the material you are pressing to avoid overheating.

2. Heat Plate Handling

- The **Cricut AutoPress** uses a heated plate that can reach high temperatures up to 400F). Never touch the heat plate directly with your hands, even if it seems cool—use gloves or a cloth to touch any part of the heat press.
- After pressing, wait for the plate to cool down before attempting to move or clean the press.

3. Use the Auto Open Feature Properly

- The **Cricut AutoPress** has an automatic release feature that ensures the press opens after the timer runs out. However, if you need to manually open the press, always do so with caution to avoid accidental burns.
- Due to the automatic release feature, please do not lean over or touch the autopress when it is operating to avoid injury when the press opens.

DK20S Heat Press Safety Tips

1. Preheating and Temperature Settings

- The **DK20S** has a digital temperature control. Always set the correct temperature for the material you're working with. Double-check the temperature and timer settings to prevent burning or damaging your materials.
- Allow the heat press to fully heat up before placing materials inside. The **DK20S** has a preheating indicator, but always ensure that the temperature has stabilized.

2. Handle the Upper Plate With Caution

- The upper platen on the **DK20S** can get extremely hot. Always avoid direct contact with the upper platen, especially during or right after the pressing cycle.
- Use heat-resistant gloves when handling the machine or transferring items from the press.

3. Proper Positioning of Materials

- Ensure that the garment or item you are pressing is properly aligned before lowering the upper platen. Misalignment can cause uneven heat transfer or burning.

- Always ensure that the heat press is fully closed before starting the pressing cycle. If it is not properly closed, it may not apply consistent pressure or heat.

4. Platen Pressure

- The **DK20S** has adjustable pressure settings. Always ensure that the pressure is set correctly for the type of material being pressed. Too much pressure can damage delicate fabrics, while too little pressure may result in poor transfer results.

Heat Press-Specific Safety Tips for Both Machines

1. Materials and Transfers

- Always use appropriate heat transfer materials (e.g., transfer paper, vinyl, or sublimation sheets) recommended for your machine. Never attempt to press materials that are not compatible with heat pressing, such as certain plastics or low-quality fabrics that may melt or catch fire.
- For **sublimation printing or heat transfer vinyl (HTV)**, follow manufacturer guidelines for the correct heat settings and pressure.

2. Monitor the Process

- While using the heat press, always monitor the process closely. If you hear unusual sounds, notice any irregularities in the machine's operation, or if the material starts to burn or smoke, **stop the press immediately**.
- It's always a good idea to stay close by while the machine is in use, particularly during the first few minutes of the press cycle.

3. Heat Press Placement

- Ensure that the heat press is on a stable surface. The **Cricut AutoPress** and **DK20S** are heavy machines, so stability is key to ensuring safety during operation.
- Never move the press while it is heated.

4. Ventilation

- Ensure that the workspace is well-ventilated to avoid the build-up of fumes from heat transfer materials or from sublimation ink.
- If you're pressing materials with adhesives or coatings that release fumes, consider working in a ventilated room or near an open window.

Post-Use Safety and Maintenance

1. Cooling Down the Machines

- Always allow the press to cool down after use. If you're not using it for a while, turn off the machine, but allow the components to cool before unplugging to avoid overheating the electronics.

2. Inspect the Press Regularly

- Check for wear and tear regularly, especially if the heat press is used frequently. Pay attention to parts like the temperature sensor, the pressure system, and the control panel.
- Ensure that the pressure knobs and handles are functioning properly, as uneven pressure can lead to poor transfer quality.

Emergency Procedures

1. Emergency Stop

- If you notice a malfunction, fire hazard, or overheating, immediately press the **emergency stop** button (if equipped) or power off the machine.

2. Fire Blanket

- The Makerspace has a fire blanket next to the sink. In case of fire or smoke, place the fire blanket over the fire or exposed area.
- Please notify the Makerspace Librarian or the next available staff member in an emergency.

3. Incident Reporting

- Any accidents, injuries, or incidents with the heat press (e.g., burns, smoke, or machine malfunction) should be **reported immediately** to the makerspace staff.
- Document any incidents and review procedures to avoid future risks.

By following these heat press safety guidelines, users can safely enjoy working with the **Cricut AutoPress** and **DK20S Heat Press**, ensuring the safety of both the operators and the equipment.