

What is Synthetic Paper? Why Use Synthetic Paper over the Standard Pulp-Based Paper?



Have you been looking for a substitute for the standard pulp-based paper? You're at the right place then as in this blog post we're going to talk about Synthetic Paper, the perfect replacement for conventional paper in durable applications. Synthetic Paper is transforming industries with amazing features like resistance to moisture, tear & oil, extreme durability, sustainability & much more. Today, many businesses are switching to Synthetic Paper for the printing of books, magazine covers, menu cards, ID cards, office stationery (envelopes, files, etc.), tags & labels. Before we dig into their features and applications, let's start with the basics of synthetic paper for a comprehensive understanding.

WHAT IS SYNTHETIC PAPER?

Synthetic Paper, as the name suggests, is made using synthetic resins, unlike the regular paper that uses wood-pulp for the purpose. Thus, it is a 100% tree-free paper that relies upon synthetic substrates as raw material. A common thread that runs through both synthetic & regular paper is the use of optical brighteners & mineral fillers to attain that paper-like smoothness, opacity & brightness.

Another thing to note is that synthetic paper is used as an umbrella term for all papers that use plastic resins as raw materials. Over the years, manufacturers have innovated various materials for synthetic paper production. One of the latest innovations in this direction is the eco-friendly BOPP-based synthetic paper. What makes it stand apart from other synthetic papers is its mono-material structure that promotes recyclability & a circular economy. However, its benefits are not limited to sustainability. Let's explore why companies are inclined towards the use of BOPP-based synthetic papers.

BENEFITS OF BOPP-BASED SYNTHETIC PAPER

Below are some of the key benefits of BOPP-based synthetic papers.

#1 Water and Oil Resistance

Regular paper is prone to damage when in contact with liquid substances. BOPP Synthetic Paper, on the other hand, made using synthetic substrates is 100% resistant to moisture. It does not tear or get wet when in contact with liquid substances like oil or water. Thus, many applications like restaurant menu cards, coasters & table mats, where paper could not be used without lamination, are now switching to synthetic paper for durability. Now, in cases of water or oil spills, users can simply clean the paper surface without worrying about damages.

#2 Tear-Free & Scuff Resistance

Synthetic paper is extremely durable and cannot be folded or torn by hand. It is completely tear-free and also provides protection against scuff. The traditional lamination over paper method fails to satisfy the scuff resistance feature. Most laminations are plagued with scratches, harming the appearance of the application. Synthetic paper, being tear & scuff resistant, serves the purpose with its durability & aesthetic appeal.

#3 Print Quality & Compatibility

Synthetic paper boasts amazing life-like print quality. However, the quality of print may also depend on the raw material used & manufacturing practices of your synthetic paper supplier. It's important that you request free samples to test print quality and compatibility with your print technology before placing an order with your synthetic paper manufacturer. Mostly, synthetic paper is compatible with multiple print technologies like off-set, thermal, laser, digital printing & so on.

#4 Compatibility with Converting Technologies

When used for the printing of labels, magazine covers, mark sheets & so on, the applications may call for altering the paper to meet design requirements. For instance, the printer might require punching compatibility for labels, or even embossing compatibility for labels, magazines

& other applications to give it an aesthetic appeal. One of the recent & most innovative designs printed on synthetic paper was for a magazine cover that featured hot foil stamping. Synthetic substrates have a tendency to melt under high temperatures, but the unmatched quality of Cosmo Synthetic Paper allowed the magazine creative designers to print their imagination to life by offering hot foil stamp compatibility ([Read the full story here](#)).

#5 Security Features

To avoid replication or tampering of important documents like mark sheets, diplomas, ID cards, organizations are looking for solutions that can be embedded with security features. Synthetic paper is the perfect solution for such advanced applications as it allows micro printing, invisible printing, high-resolution border, blind embossing, QR code printing, hot foil stamping, prismatic printing & much more. That said, synthetic papers by different manufacturers might not offer the same security features. Thus, it is advised that you consult with your supplier for the required security feature.

#6 Production Cost & Time

Printing on synthetic paper for applications where durability is required eliminates the need for lamination. This way, organizations are able to save both cost & time involved in the lamination process of regular paper when they switch to synthetic paper.

#7 Sustainability

Synthetic paper is a 100% tree-free solution, as it does not require wood-pulp in the production process. Additionally, BOPP synthetic paper offers recyclability, unlike other synthetic papers, which are hard to recycle. BOPP uses a homogenous structure that facilitates the recycling process and promotes a circular economy.

So what are you still waiting for? Connect with one of the leading synthetic paper producers, Cosmo Films, which has been serving the industry with innovative & sustainable BOPP-based solutions since 1981. Cosmo Films produces a range of synthetic papers, including top or both sides coated, standard, matt & more variants. The team also goes on to meet custom requirements to help organizations reduce wastage and boost productivity. [Click here](#) to get in touch.