



ET CETERA  
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## FAQ'S FOR REAL WOOD PRINTING

### 1. Can you print on the wood paper?

Absolutely, our real wood sheets are printable! We recommend using an ink jet printer by manually feeding through the bypass tray. We do NOT recommend laser printing because of the high heat involved that may damage your printer and/or your wood sheet. Use caution and test first if you choose to use a laser printer.

### 2. What other types of printing can be utilized with the real woodgrain paper?

Our friends printing on the wood paper products are successful using Flexo, Offset, Silk Screening and Digital with fast or hard drying inks. For Offset printing, UV and Oxidizing inks work best. It's always best to allow at least 24 hours for drying time. **\*\*DO NOT use heat set inks - these do not perform well with the real wood materials\*\*** When using offset printing, let the real wood veneer acclimate in the pressroom for at least 24 hours for best results. Open packages right before printing. Real wood veneer may require additional cylinder squeezing on press (offset). It's normal for a minimal amount of surface particles to transfer to the printing blankets, however this should not alter the overall print quality. Pre-testing using aqueous inks and varnishes is always preferred to make sure that you receive the desired results.

### 3. Does the grain affect ink coverage?

We've not heard about any issues regarding ink spreading or color adhesion. Since the real wood is very absorbent, more ink is necessary to achieve darker colors. Inks that dry by absorption have the best success.

### 4. What does "grain direction" mean?

Grain direction refers to the direction in which most of the fiber in the paper (or wood) lie. Short grain means the grain runs parallel to the paper's short side and the natural "curl" is from top to bottom. Long grain means the grain is parallel with the paper's long side and the natural "curl" is from side to side.

### 5. Does grain direction matter?

Absolutely! Depending on what you're planning to use the real wood paper sheets for, specifying whether or not you want SHORT grain or LONG grain might matter. Normal sheets are long grain unless you specifically ask for short grain. This is especially important if you will be scoring and folding the sheets. Keep in mind too, that pricing may be different for a short grain sheet.

### 6. What if I want a different size that's not being offered?

Sure, we'll do custom orders when desired. Just ask us! We'll put together a custom quote. When placing an order for custom sized sheet(s), please email our customer service department at [hello@etcpapers.com](mailto:hello@etcpapers.com). Feel free to call us too: (702) 851-7277.

### 7. Is every package the same?

Nope! Remember that these are REAL wood products. Every sheet is as unique as every tree in the forest!

Connecting Folks to Uncommonly Good Stuff!

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## GENERAL INFORMATION - PAPER FACTS

### Grain Direction

Paper grain, or paper fibers, can be either long grain or short grain. Long grain refers to paper in which the fibers line up in the same direction as the longest measurement of the paper, so on an 8.5" × 11" sheet, it would run with the 11" (up and down the sheet). Short grain refers to paper in which the fibers line up in the same direction as the shortest measurement of the paper, so on an 8.5×11 sheet, it would run with the 8.5" (across the sheet).

Paper folded parallel with the grain, produces a cleaner fold than if folded across the grain. Folding with the grain will allow your paper to lay flat. Folding against the grain will cause your sheet to stand up more. You may get cracking along the fold when the sheet is folded against the grain.

### Scored with the grain & Scored against the grain

If you are printing something that does not need to be folded, either grain direction will work just fine. This is mainly for items printed that then need to be folded against the grain. This may cause toner to flake off in the folded area.

For best results: laser printers require the use of long grain paper. Short grain paper may not feed properly into a laser printer, the heat produced by a laser printer may result in excessive curling of the paper as the sheets exit the printer.

### Helpful Tips:

- First, make a simple test using the real wood sheet making sure it prints properly with your personal laser printer.
- Here's an easy exercise to find out which direction the grain lies:

1. Take the sheet in your hands and act as if you were going to fold the sheet in half one way (by doing this step you'll be able to roll it all the way up). Going with the grain of the paper, the sheet will feel like it can fold easily. Now, you've established this is the Long-grain.



FLAT SHEET



FOLDED WITH GRAIN

2. Next, take the same sheet and try folding it in half going the other way. You will feel the resistance of the fibers and it may feel like it will crack in half. This is short -grain of the paper.



FLAT SHEET



FOLDED AGAINST THE GRAIN



FOLDED WITH AND AGAINST THE GRAIN

If you've noticed that the paper is curling, then [here's](#) a handy video to help you uncurl it for your particular use.

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