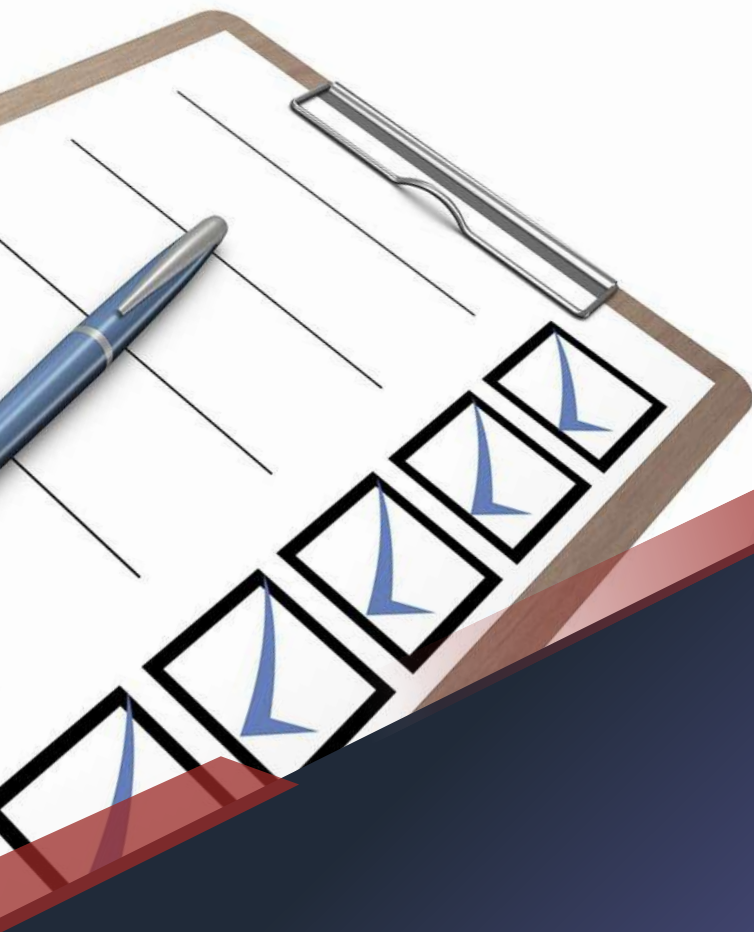


FINDING THE PERFECT SCREEN PRINTING PRESS CHECKLIST



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Upgrading to a new press is a big decision. And choosing the right press can deliver big results: higher print quality, increased productivity, reduced operating costs and more profit.

As you explore the equipment market, use this checklist to help narrow down your search to only the best options. Remember, don't just consider your current printing needs, think about the future too!

STEP 1: LIST YOUR REQUIREMENTS

The first step towards finding the perfect press for your screen printing shop is determining what you really need.

Ask yourself:

What size print area do I need?

How many colors do I need to print?

What size press can I fit in my shop?



STEP 2: CONSIDER KEY FEATURES

Once you've narrowed your choices down to machines that meet your absolute necessities, get the most bang for your buck by comparing their features. Some key features to look for include:

Indexing, Lift and Print Head Power

- While a press with air-powered systems might come with a smaller price tag, an electric machine can save you money in the long run with better reliability and efficiency.
- Air, Servo and AC systems are common choices.

Flash Capabilities

- What types of flash cures are compatible with the press?

Safety Features

- What types of flash cures are compatible with the press?

Control Panel

- Is the press controlled from a touchscreen or with knobs and buttons? Look for the interface you'll be most comfortable using.
- Does the operating system allow you to do things like store and upload important job settings and diagnose issues? These features can save time and money.

Other Equipment

- If you're considering an air-powered press, you'll need an air compressor and chiller.
- Can your current dryer keep up with the higher production rate of the new press, or will you need a new dryer?

Options

- Is the press compatible with a variety of attachments like flash cures, flocking systems, or a foot pedal to control indexing?
- Can you mix different types of power for the print heads, lift or indexer? If an all-electric press is out of your price range, a press with a good mix of pneumatic and electric systems will optimize your print quality while keeping your price tag and power bill down.

Price

- Your initial investment in a press will definitely be a concern, but remember there are additional costs to consider, like crating, delivery, installation and long-term operating costs (in addition to any other equipment you might need to run the press).
- Look for a press that will fit your budget today, in the future and during slack time. Keeping your operating costs lower is possible with the right press.

STEP 3: COMPARE CHOICES

Now that you've carefully considered what you need and what you want in a screen printing press, it's time to weigh the options that meet that criteria.

Some questions that can help make your decision easier include:

- **Does the manufacturer offer multiple service options?** Free Skype and Facetime calling for minor issues in addition to in-house technician visits will save you considerable money on repair costs.
- **Is there a nearby shop using the press you're interested in?** If they'll let you visit, seeing the machine in action can give you a better idea of how it performs in a real work environment.
- **Is there an upcoming trade show where you can see a demonstration?** Besides getting to see the press in person, you'll have an opportunity to chat with a manufacturer representative and get to know the people behind the product. And by going through the steps in this checklist, you'll be prepared to ask great questions!

- **How do the warranties stack up?** A screen printing press is a big investment, and like any other industrial equipment it'll occasionally need parts or service over its lifetime.

Read through the warranty and make sure you're happy with its coverage.

More questions about screen printing equipment?

Your equipment is your livelihood and that's why we're ready to do all we can to help. We're here to assist you in finding a setup that's the right fit for your shop today and in the future.

Anatol Equipment
(847) 367-9760
anatol.com