

Tekra's Diverse Coating Capabilities

Tekra is known in the industry for being a manufacturer and distributor of high performance plastic films and adhesives. What some may not know is that Tekra has the ability to create [custom coatings](#) for your specific application. Tekra is equipped with a state-of-the-art lab and an entire Research & Development team staffed with engineers and chemists. The team is able to complete rapid prototyping on the pilot coater and make adjustments on a small scale in the lab before taking the new product to the roll coaters for a full scale production trial.



Tekra's ability to use our standard gravure coaters or slot die technology along with two different types of curing allows Tekra to offer a more diverse coating portfolio. Throughout the entire creation of the new coating and product the Research & Development team and sales team keep the customer updated to ensure the proper specifications are met for the customer's application. The next time you have a custom coating application be sure to give your Tekra sales representative a call and discuss how we can collaborate to find a solution!

Tackling Biodegradable and Recycling Myths



Whether it is at your customer's request, to give yourself a competitive edge, or you are trying to be more environmentally conscious: you might be making changes to the types of plastics you use to be "greener". Biodegradable vs. compostable vs. recyclable plastics—the options will make your head spin. What are the differences?

Biodegradable vs. Compostable

It is important to clarify the meaning of "biodegradable" and "compostable" because they are different in terms of their sustainability and are not interchangeable.

Biodegradable products are marketed as environmentally friendly due to their ability to decompose. However, many of these biodegradable materials are not as sustainable as they are claiming to be. There are no specific industry requirements for leaving no toxic residue, and as well as no requirements for the time it needs to take to biodegrade. Even as biodegradable materials decompose, they may leave waste product behind. As a result, throwing certain biodegradable materials into the trash can be almost as bad as throwing away something that is recyclable. In short: proceed with caution when you see "biodegradable" as you may be spending more money for a product that is not friendly to the environment.

On the other hand, compostable materials are sustainable and by definition indicate that a product can break down. In order for a material to be called compostable, it must: biodegrade, disintegrate, and not leave toxic material behind. A truly compostable product decomposes into carbon dioxide, water, inorganic compounds and biomass. If your application is looking for a green option besides recyclable plastics, compostable materials are more valuable than biodegradable options.

Recyclable

Plastics have been getting a bad reputation, but it is important to understand that recycling plastics is the backbone of their sustainability. Complete plastic bans may make matters worse for the environment, as it could significantly increase global energy consumption from the manufacturing of the replacement materials. We can put a focus on recycling plastics, keeping them in the recycling stream for as long as possible, and ensuring they are reprocessed into useful products. [Polyester](#) or PET is one of the most recyclable plastics and it can be used again and again. The resources that go into polyester, mainly crude and natural gas, only need to be recovered once if its recycled. While recycled material requires energy, it increases the overall life cycle of the material and reduces waste.

Is the recyclability of the plastic still not enough to satisfy your customer's requirements? There are polyester films made with post-consumer resin (PCR), which is made from recycled materials. As more companies work towards using PCR plastics, the demand will continue to increase and there will be more options readily available.

Still have questions? The plastic experts at Tekra are happy to help navigate your customer's needs for your application and point you towards the best option.

Outdoor Overlaminates Options

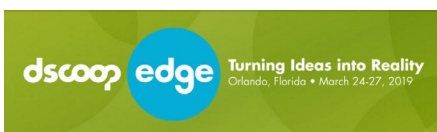
For everything you're trying to protect

Many options currently exist for durable, outdoor overlaminates. A good option to consider is 3M™ Overlaminating Film OFM010N which is UL recognized for indoor/outdoor use (UL files MH11410 and MH16411) and is often used on durable goods such as power tools, equipment and machinery. An even better option is 3M™ Overlaminating Film 7733FL. This film provides superior humidity and solvent resistance and, when used with 3M™ Polyester Label stocks, can survive three years outdoors. One of 3M's best options to consider is 3M™ Overlaminating Film 7735FL; a ten year, 3.0 mil acrylic film with exceptional outdoor durability and UV resistance. Consider using 3M™ Overlaminating Film 7735FL when you're looking to protect labels in outdoor environments for long periods of time.



Tekra to Exhibit at Dscope Edge!

Tekra will be showcasing at the 'Dscope Edge' Conference in sunny Orlando, Florida! The Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center will be hosting the event March 24-27, 2019. Come visit us at booth #603 to check out everything Tekra has to offer for the HP Indigo, HP Latex and HP Scitex print platforms. We will be showcasing our full line of digitally printable films, specifically formatted to HP Indigo or HP Inkjet printing.



Meet The Staff

Tekra has been built on customized service. For over 80 years we have worked directly with customers to develop products to meet their specific needs. Many of our products were created to help solve a problem a customer was experiencing in their process. Our custom approach and success is driven by our people. We'd like you to meet a few of our key players that help make it all happen.

Carl Sr. Director of National Sales



Carl has been with Tekra for 13 years. Prior to Tekra, his background includes over 30 years in the printing industry, and has extensive knowledge in 'industrial decoratives' and technical applications. In his spare time, Carl is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys deer hunting, ice fishing and caring for his farmland in Wisconsin's beautiful countryside. Carl's favorite Tekra product is our ProTek Velvet Finish Polyester. "This product is a great addition that we've been needing at Tekra. It offers a tactile feel which opens up possibilities for our customers portfolios." This product is offered in 7 and 10 mil thicknesses and can be coated 1st surface for digital print applications. You can learn more about our ProTek® Velvet Texture Heat Stabilized Hardcoated Polyester [here](#).

Jason Sr. Director of Coating and Operations



Jason has been with Tekra for 24 years and has primarily spent his days in our Research and Development lab working to create solutions for the market place. When he takes his lab coat off at night, he unwinds with a battle against 'Alduin the World-Eater' Dragon by playing the Elder Scrolls V Skyrim. This clears his head so he can tackle the favorite part of his job, working on creating custom solutions. "I enjoy the projects that that require highly technical advancements in our operation, making us better at what we do every day."

For more information on our custom coating capabilities click [here](#).

No Static At All

Here in the state of Wisconsin, we cannot change the seasons we choose to operate in. Instead, we must change the way we operate within each season. This time of year, as the calendar turns over – manufacturers & distributors like Tekra, A Division of EIS, Inc., turn our attention to the complexity of static electricity within our operations.



Tekra has undergone an extensive investigation of sources of static electricity throughout our manufacturing and converting facility. Below, are some of the general techniques we have found are best to try first when you encounter static electricity:

- Proper Handling: You can reduce static by carefully placing a roll of plastic film on its side, or a lift of sheets flat on a concrete floor prior to being put on the machine.
- Anti-Static Tinsel: By simply placing copper, carbon fiber or stainless steel tinsel in the problem area and then grounding it, you can reduce the static charge at that spot.
- Grounding: Staying grounded within your environment can be the difference between safety and serious injury or death.
- Environment: Monitoring relative humidity and adjusting the environment.

If you continue to have issues with static, give us a call for more tips and tricks!