

Printing and Surface Finishing Options for Packaging Boxes

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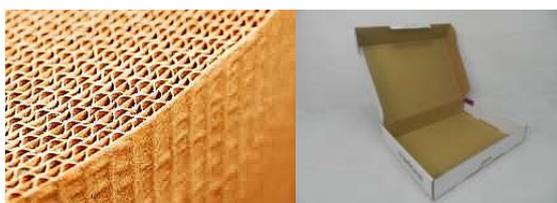
22nd Apr., 2015

When it comes to paper packaging design, many of those who are new to the practice find themselves confused by all the different manufacturing processes. They rarely see whole production processes for their packaging boxes, and therefore can be unsure about what they need to pay attention to when designing boxes, and whether their designs can go into mass production.

The below information will introduce basic manufacturing methods and processes for packaging boxes. If you want to know more, you can find the Alagobox Ebook on our website, www.alagobox.com.

There are three types of typical paper boxes based on their material:

1. Corrugated boxes:



Materials come from all kinds of corrugated paper.

Basic manufacturing process: printing + surface finishing + process finishing + mounting + die-cut + glue + packing

2. Rigid boxes:



Materials come from all kinds of cardboard and top papers.

Basic manufacturing process: printing + surface finishing + process finishing + slot + die-cut + mounting cardboard and top papers + liner

3. Normal boxes:



Materials come from printed top papers.

Basic manufacturing process: printing + surface finishing + process finishing + die-cut + glue

Typical Printing Processes:

1. Normal color printing:

The current printing method is litho offset, also called offset printing. Print colors are formed with the CMYK 4 color system: C=Cyan, M=Magenta, Y=Yellow, K=Black. Almost all printing colors are a combination of these 4 colors, with the exception being Pantone Number colors.

2. Pantone color printing:

To get standard Pantone Number colors onto a box as per your unique logo, CMYK printing is not recommended as it may have slight color discrepancies when compared with Pantone Number printing. Printing needs to be set up for this specific Pantone Number color, which generates higher costs both for sample and unit prices. This should be considered when you create your design.

Surface finishing options:

After printing, a surface finish is applied to the material.

1. Varnish: The traditional surface finishing method. Doesn't cost much, but is less wearable than other methods.

2. Polish: Varnish + high temperature + flatten. The paper is polished by a machine to look stunning.

3. Laminating: Paper surface has a film applied by a machine. The paper is wearable and not easily damaged or destroyed.

Most box surfaces are laminated, as it is a popular and advanced surface finish. Both PP and Matte laminating are available. In PP laminating the surface is glossy and eye-catching. With Matte laminating the surface has a matte finish and looks luxurious and high-quality.

Secondary Finishing Options:

Secondary finishes are applied after the surface finishing is complete.

1. Gold hot stamping: Gold stamping film is transferred to a paper surface with



heat. The color level of a thermal transfer is excellent, which allows it to properly highlight spot patterns. Stamping films are available in a variety of colors, with gold and silver being the most common. Special color patterns are subject to minimum order quantities and this should be considered when designing.

2. Embossing: Using tooling to press out fonts or patterns on a surface. These



patterns and fonts have a 3D look and feel to them. Usually they need be treated with a special color to highlight them properly.

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3. Spot UV



Spot UV comes in both 3D and normal UV. It uses a machine to fix UV ink onto a defined part of a surface. The surface after a Spot UV treatment dries is more wearable and highly glossy.

There are a number of other special processes available for packaging boxes, so to find out more please visit our website www.alagobox.com and subscribe to our E-Newsletter. We have 15+ years of experience in manufacturing paper boxes, and can offer you professional help.