

## Fact Sheet **Number 1**

# OPACITY

Opacity is the technical term for how “see through” a particular paper is. Also commonly known as “show through”, opacity is a measurement of how impervious paper, and other materials, are to light. Ideally, the print image from the front side should not show through to the other side of the sheet.

Opacity is particularly significant when printing on both sides of the paper.

To make paper less “see through” manufacturers use fillers such as kaolin, talcum or titanium dioxide. They might also use a greater proportion of pulp which will make the paper thicker.

Below we have used heavy fonts to highlight the opacity of this paper. Turn the sheet over and look at the opacity.

Below is a black box printed with 100% Black & 100% Cyan.

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