COLOUR LIKE NO OTHER

Caligo Safe Wash Relief Inks

Caligo Safe Wash RELIEF/ BLOCK inks are vegetable oil-based printing inks that can be cleaned up easily and safely with soap and water. No solvents are needed. They are suitable for all kinds of relief printing such as Linocut, woodcut, wood engraving and letterpress. These inks work and feel like traditional oil-based relief inks and you can still use many of the modifiers you use for traditional oil-based inks.

Are they safe for me and for the environment?

Caligo Safe Wash Relief inks carry the AP "Approved Product" Seal of the Art and Creative Materials Institute. This seal means that our Safe Wash Inks have been tested to show they 'contain no materials in sufficient quantities to be toxic or injurious to humans or to cause acute or chronic health problems'.

We make our inks with renewable Linseed Oil. Linseed Oil is a vegetable oil made from the seeds of the Flax Plant and used for generations to make high quality printing inks. Linseed Oil is considered free of Volatile Organic Compounds (V.O.C's) that can harm the environment. We do not use any heavy metal or toxic pigments.

How do I modify Caligo Safe Wash Relief Inks? & do I need any special Ink Modifiers?

Caligo Safe Wash Inks are made with oil and so you will find that you can use many of the ink modifiers you would use with traditional oil-based inks. The only specialist modifier you may need is our Safe Wash Oil.

- **Caligo Safe Wash Oil (WTC 83948)** – the only special ink modifier you may need to use with our Safe Wash Inks. Add a little of our washable oil when you need to thin your inks a little.

  PLEASE NOTE: You can add 'traditional' oils/varnishes or oil-based inks but this may make your Inks more difficult to wash up with just soap and water. A little drop of laundry liquid can help at wash up on any difficult to clean patches.

- **Caligo Safe Wash Extender (WTC 83405)** – add this transparent ink when you need to reduce the strength and increase the transparency of your ink.

- **Caligo Wiping /Tack Reducer Compound (WTC 83756)** - add a little Wiping Compound (or similar 'tack reducer') if you need to reduce tack and improve ink transfer. You may find this useful when you are printing onto more textured or dry papers or if you are printing by hand.

- To stiffen your ink, you can use Magnesium Carbonate (or Talc). Caligo Safe Wash inks are oil-based and so you'll find they feel stiffer when cold. Warming them up or working them with a pallet knife will make these inks feel looser and softer and, easier to roll out and use.

- To speed up drying, you can use traditional driers for oil-based inks (e.g. Magnesium or Cobalt driers), or use Cranfield "Printmakers Wax Drier (**WTC-84356**). This easy-to-use additive is compatible with any Cranfield or Caligo oil-based printmaking ink and, because it's been formulated with a similar viscosity to most oil-based printmaking inks, the Printmakers' Wax Drier paste can be mixed with ease into an ink on the slab with a pallet knife, add no more than 3 or 4% to noticeably increase the speed of ink drying. In addition the presence of a blended wax compound means the finished print is more resistant to rubbing and marking over the longer term.

Printing

For best results, we recommend you print directly to dry or lightly damped paper. It is important to remember that the inks are designed to emulsify in water and advise caution not to over damp your paper. You don't need to damp your paper for long and you should always blot the paper thoroughly to make sure there is no surface water left on the paper. Damping just the back of your paper with a damp sponge or spray also works well. We recommend you avoid touching the image while still wet.

Some experimentation may be required depending on the type of paper you print on, your damping technique, and the print pressure you use.

If you are printing onto fabric, we strongly advise you always try out on a test piece first and avoid fabrics that may shrink. Make sure your print is fully and thoroughly dried before using or washing. You can help dry and set your print with a hot iron on the reverse.

Cleaning Up

You don't need any solvents at clean up. Caligo Safe Wash Inks can be washed up with just soap and cold water. Do not use hot water. We recommend the following method:

- First, remove excess ink with a knife or a dry rag and use some newsprint to remove as much ink as you can from your plate before wash up.
- Then, apply a solution of liquid soap/detergent directly onto the inky surfaces with a clean brush or a soft sponge. As you work the soap into the inky surface you will see the ink break down and emulsify.
- Finally, Wipe away the ink-soap mixture with a damp sponge or a paper towel. Carefully dry all surfaces before storage.

Using just water alone may sometimes cause some ink to stick to some surfaces. If any stubborn patches of ink remain, dry the surface, apply liquid soap and work it into the ink until it starts to lift away. Wipe clean with a damp sponge and dry with a paper towel. And why not recycle your used tartalan by washing out and drying on a line.

Mixing and Colour Mixing

Most of the colours are made with single pigments and so they make good bases for mixing your own colours. You can mix the safe wash inks with any other ink from the Safe Wash Range (Etching or Relief). We load our inks with high percentage of pigment and so you will find a little will go a long way. See our chart for the full range of single pigment colours we make for you. For more ideas about colour mixing and how to use the 3 Process Colours + Black (Process Cyan, Process Magenta and Process Yellow) to make a spectrum of reds, oranges, greens, blues and purples as well as earth shades and pastels, please email and ask for our colour mixing guide hello@cranfield-colours.co.uk

Are the inks Lightfast?

At full strength, all the inks in the range have a light fast rating of at least 6 on the Blue Wool Scale. Check the chart overleaf for individual ratings for each ink.

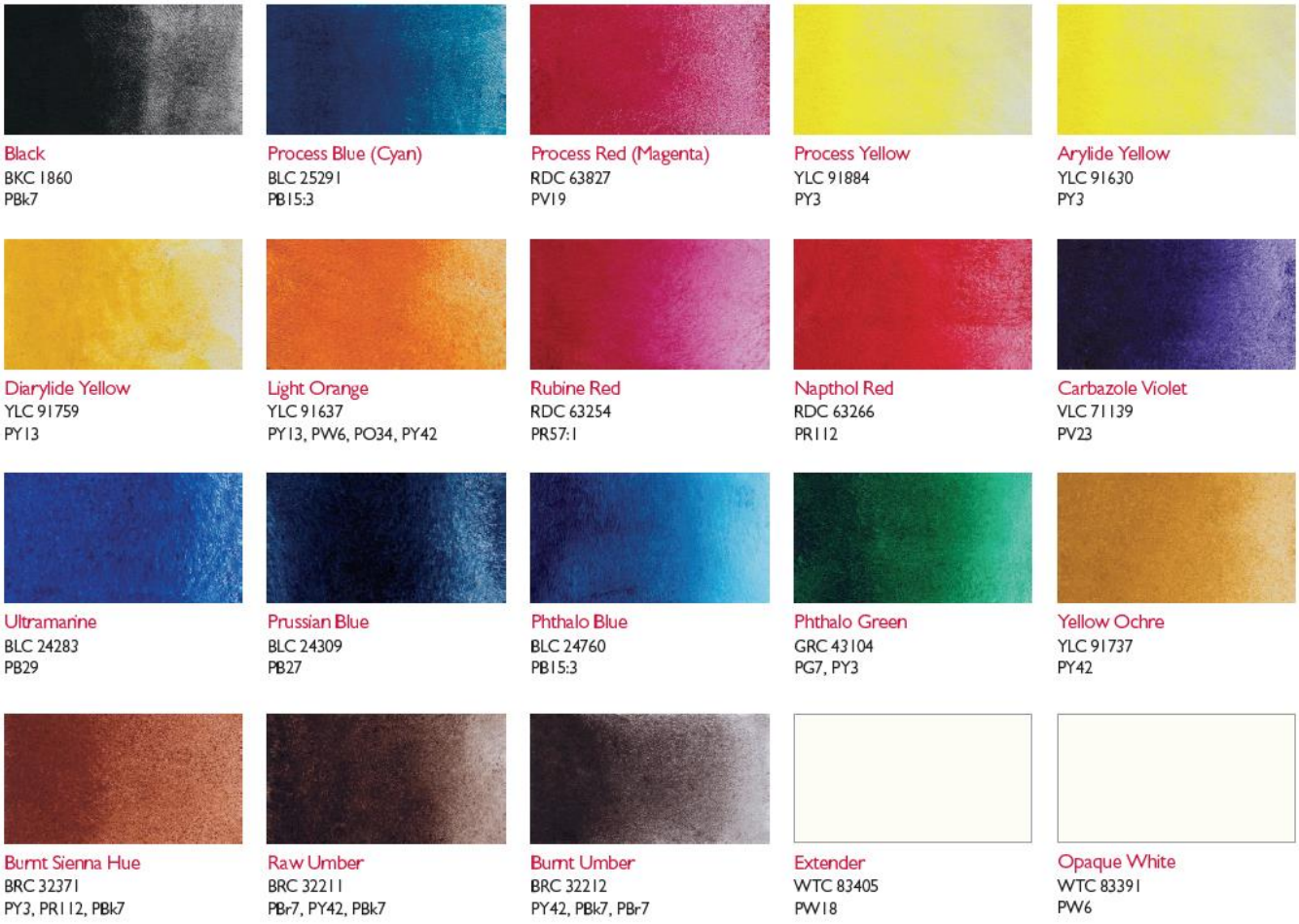
How should I store my inks?

All oil-based Inks will eventually dry and form a skin when exposed to the oxygen in the air. To help stop your ink from drying in the tin, first of make sure you remove any pockets of air or you may get skin in your ink. Always cover and carefully seal the exposed surfaces of the ink with the plastic seal. Always replace the lid securely. Refer to Cranfield's Technical Note on Storage for more details.

Any Questions or Comments?

Please email us directly with any questions and comments or ideas for new applications you are trying out with Caligo Safe Wash RELIEF Inks. We're really keen to hear what you are doing at the 'ink face' and we will be very happy to reply by email. hello@cranfield-colours.co.uk

Caligo Safe Wash Colour Chart



The above displayed colours are for approximation only and depending on your device may not accurately represent actual ink colour.

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