



10 TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL STAMPING

BY JACQUE WILLIAMS

1.

TRIM EXCESS RUBBER FOR CLEANER RESULTS

Say goodbye to “halo-ing” by trimming excess rubber close to the etched image. This prevents stray ink from sneaking onto your stamp. Dedicated scissors for this task are a great investment. Remember, pressing too hard into the ink pad can also lead to unwanted marks—opt for a block size that matches your stamp (too large of a block can also pick up unwanted ink), and use a gentle touch.



2.

TAP, DON'T PUSH, ON THE INK PAD

Let the weight of the block do the work when applying ink. Pressing too hard doesn't make the ink darker—it just creates an unwanted mess. If your stamp gets ink in the grooves or on the block, I recommend cleaning it off and ink it up again. Precision is key for a crisp, clean image.



3.

AVOID ROCKING THE STAMP

When stamping, go "straight down, wait, straight up." Rocking the stamp causes smudges and uneven images. Stand while stamping to apply even pressure, and practice to find the right balance—enough to transfer ink without distortion.



4.

INVEST IN HIGH-QUALITY TOOLS

Deeply etched red rubber or photopolymer stamps work best. Keep them out of direct sunlight to prevent hardening, and use a moisturizing cleaner for red rubber. Pair quality stamps with smooth, absorbent cardstock like Stampin' Up!'s Basic White for professional results.



5.

REFILL INK PADS REGULARLY

Uneven or faint stamping might mean your ink pad needs a refill. Pads dry out fastest in the center, so it's smart to buy refills alongside new pads. This is especially critical for quick-drying inks like Staz-On or Versamark.



6.

APPROPRIATELY MATCH INK TO CARDSTOCK

Not all inks and cardstocks are compatible. If drying time is an issue, you may be using the wrong combination. Download [this inks reference chart](#) to keep handy near your supplies for quick guidance.



7.

LET THE INK TRANSFER

Give the ink time to move from stamp to paper. Once your stamp is inked, don't delay—stamp immediately for the best results. Be mindful of fast-drying inks like Staz-On, which can dry on the stamp before transferring fully.



8.

USE A STAMPING MAT FOR PHOTOPOLYMER STAMPS

Unlike red rubber stamps, photopolymer stamps lack a foam layer, which can make stamping larger images tricky. A stamping mat adds the cushion you need for consistent impressions, especially with solid or large designs.



9.

STAMP ON A FIRM, FLAT SURFACE

For red rubber stamps, a firm base like the [Glass Mat](#) is ideal. Avoid flexible surfaces like plastic tables, which can compromise the quality of your stamped images. [Read more about the Glass Mat here.](#)



10.

CLEAN STAMPS BEFORE FIRST USE

New stamps often have a residue from the mould release agent used during manufacturing. Clean them thoroughly before using to ensure ink adheres evenly and your images are flawless. The most economical, environmental friendly, and moisturizing way to clean your stamps is with the [Simply Shabby](#); all you need is water!



BONUS TIP

MANAGE "JUICY" INK PADS

Brand-new ink pads might be overly saturated, making detailed stamping difficult. Instead of wasting ink, use a bone folder to gently move the excess to one side. The ink will naturally redistribute over time.



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR JOINING ME TODAY! I HOPE YOU'RE FEELING INSPIRED AND READY TO PUT THESE STAMPING TIPS INTO ACTION.

WANT TO TAKE YOUR SKILLS EVEN FURTHER? CHECK OUT MY [TECHNIQUES AND TEA SERIES](#) FOR EVEN MORE CREATIVE IDEAS AND EXPERT GUIDANCE. BE SURE TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR INBOX, TOO—I'VE GOT MORE TIPS, TRICKS, AND INSPIRATION HEADING YOUR WAY SOON!



www.stamphappy.co.nz

shop online: www.stamphappy.co.nz/shop



mail@stamphappy.co.nz



021 128 9923

Jacque Williams



INSPIRE · CREATE · SHARE

INDEPENDENT DEMONSTRATOR