

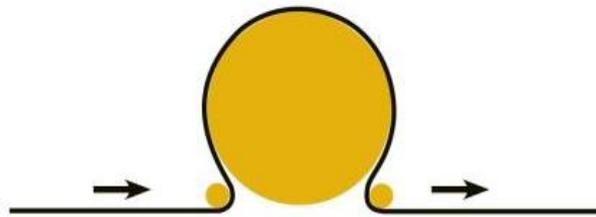
The Basics of Paper-making – Part 2: Drying, MG and MF papers

Paper-making uses some unusual terms that aren't common in general flexible packaging. This blog is part of a series that will make up a quick reference guide to help you understand the basics of paper-making. **In part two of our series, we'll cover methods for drying paper on the paper machine.**

There are two common methods used to dry paper on the paper machine.

MG Paper

MG stands for Machine Glazed. This drying technique uses a very large (>5m) diameter steam-heated drying cylinder called an MG cylinder. The paper is wrapped almost all the way around the cylinder which both dries the paper and also slightly polishes its surface.



(Diagram showing paper path around MG cylinder)

This drying process leads to a different finish on each side of the paper. The MG side is smooth and slightly polished, which creates a good surface for printing and allows for very good reproduction of fine text (great for UDI demands). The other side of the paper (the reverse side) is slightly rough, which gives good receptivity to heat seal coatings and is great for direct sealing.

MG papers are slightly stiffer than other papers which leads to excellent processing through converting equipment.



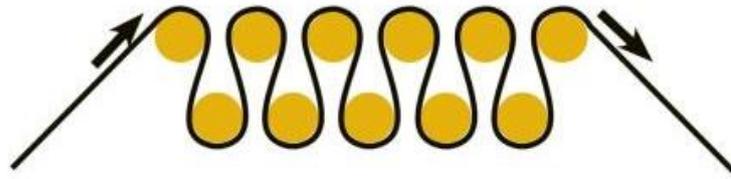
(MG machine with the MG cylinder marked in green)



BILLERUDKORSNÄS

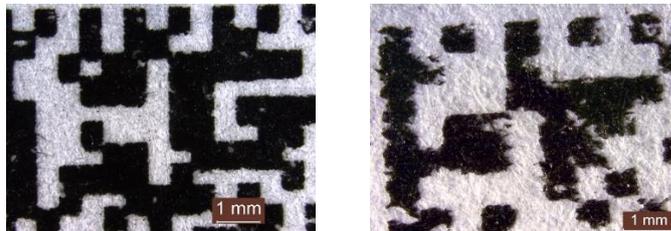
MF Paper

MF stands for Machine Finished. This drying technique uses a large number of smaller, steam-heated cylinders to dry the paper which is alternately wrapped one way and then the other way so that both sides of the paper receive the same finish.



(Diagram of a Machine Finished Drying Web Path)

The finish on both sides of an MF paper is similar to the reverse (rougher) side of an MG paper. Since MF papers lack the shiny surface of an MG paper, they can sometimes appear to be more white. MF papers do still print well but can't match the reproduction of fine text in the same way an MG paper can.



(Images showing QR codes on MG paper on the left vs ab MF paper on the right)



www.billerudkorsnas.com