

PECO Family Jams Image Transfer Tiles



This project requires a bit of patience but once you understand the technique it can be applied to many surfaces using any picture you want to print. Check out our video at www.phillymagicgardens.org/public-programs/family-jams/ for more detailed instructions. If you are crafting with very small children or just don't have a lot of time, go to the bottom of the page for a quick workaround.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- A paper towel
- Straight-edge or ruler to use as a brayer
- Foam or bristle brush (you can also use a cotton swab or finger)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut out the image you want to transfer onto the tile.
2. Spread a thick layer of Mod Podge across the glossy side of the tile. Make sure it reaches the edges.
3. Place the image face down on the tacky surface.
4. Starting from the center of the tile, use the ruler to gently smooth out any wrinkles in the paper. Wipe away any excess Mod Podge that squeezes out along the edge.
5. Set aside and let dry for 8 hours. (Shorter drying times will result in a more distressed final look, which can also be fun.)
6. Thoroughly wet a paper towel. Squeeze out excess water so the towel is not dripping.
7. Spread the wet towel over the entire surface of the tile and pat it down gently so that the entire surface is dampened.
8. Lift the paper towel. The image should be visible through the backing paper. If you see dry white patches in the image, gently dab with the wet towel. You want the entire image dampened but not wet. Tip #1: *Dampened paper will feel slightly fuzzy as the paper fibers stand up. If it feels tacky, the paper is too wet and the Mod Podge has softened -- simply, wait for 5-10 minutes for the paper to dry out (the paper will turn cloudy as it dries) and return to Step 7, reducing the time the wet towel sits on the tile.*
9. Using flat fingers and a light touch, begin gently rubbing the backing paper to remove it from the image, layer by layer. You want to use friction NOT pressure. Too much pressure will tear away the image layer as well. Tip #2: *The edges of the image are most vulnerable to peeling and tearing. To reduce peeling, rub in one direction away from the center of the tile toward the edge.*
10. As you rub, the paper fibers will begin balling up under your fingers. Blow or shake the balls off the tile. Keep rubbing.
11. As the backing paper dries, it will turn cloudy and white. Resist the urge to add pressure or keep rubbing. Instead, take a break for a few minutes so the remaining backing paper can dry out. Return to Step 7. If the towel is still damp, do not re-wet it.
12. Repeat Step 11 as needed, slowly rubbing away layers of paper fibers until only the image is left. (This is a great activity to do while watching reruns of your favorite show.) In the end, the image will feel smooth to the touch. If you are happy with the image but still see some faint cloudiness, go to Step 13. If you are not happy with the outcome, go to Step 14.
13. Paint a protective top coat of Mod Podge across the surface of the tile. It will go on cloudy but dry clear. Tip #3: *If you want to eliminate brush strokes, dampen your finger and gently sweep it across the top of your tile until noticeable lines disappear.*
14. If you feel unsatisfied with your outcome, simply submerge the tile in water and let it soak for a few minutes until the image can be easily scraped away entirely. Let the tile dry and start again.

Fast-and-Easy Variation: Cut out an image. Spread Mod Podge across the top of the tile. Affix the image face-up. Remove wrinkles by smoothing the paper. Wait 10 minutes. Add a protective top coat of Mod Podge. Allow to dry overnight. Voila!