Basic Technique

If you have screen printed before, probably way back at school, you will remember the old days where you pushed hard on the squeegee with both hands to make a print - well times have certainly changed as that same technique using modern equipment will provide a very poor quality print.

1. With your screen mounted to a frame, place over some paper ready for a test print.
- Always perform a test print before using each screen - this will reveal any problems with artwork/ imaging which can be corrected before printing commences

2. Dip an ink knife into the ink and laden the squeegee blade with the ink ready to commence printing
- Laden by placing the ink knife against the blade and holding the squeegee still, pull the ink knife downwards - the blade of the squeegee will 'scrape' the ink off the ink knife
- You can also put the ink directly onto the screen

3. With sufficient ink on the blade, about 7-10mm thick, place the squeegee onto the edge of the screen, then lower the blade and rock forward & back 3 times to transfer this ink onto the screen and then bring the angle back up ready to print
- Rocking to transfer the ink is only required on the 1st print - this is not required for every print.

4. Pull the squeegee across the screen at an angle of approx. 70 degrees from one side to the other, when complete raise the squeegee angle back to vertical to 'pick up' the ink and remove from the squeegee from the screen

5. Rest the squeegee to the side and lift the frame in a hinge motion to reveal the print
- A hinge motion is used to avoid smudging/ blurring the print [hold the frame on one side]
- If a print is light you can lower the frame and print again as the hinge effect holds it in place

- Always use Table Adhesive under the item to stop movement and avoid blurring/ smudging
- Your squeegee should be at approx. 70 degrees and move freely across the screen
- If you get ink on your fingertips whilst printing raise the angle of the squeegee
- Prints too dark, blurred, smudged or not a clear image = pressure too great and squeegee angle too low. Two lighter passes will provide a sharper result.
- Prints too light, not a clear image = pressure too light, squeegee angle too high or not enough ink on the squeegee

Let the squeegee and ink do the work for you. It's not the pressure applied to the squeegee that pushes the ink through the screen and onto the item below it's actually the sharp edge of the squeegee blade that pulls a fine layer of ink through the screen mesh, which is designed to regulate the amount of ink that passes. So excess pressure will blur your design and reduces quality.

Old Techniques Provide Poor Results

If you have screen printed before (probably way back at school) you will remember having to push hard on the squeegee with both hands to make a print - well times have certainly changed, using that technique with modern inks and squeegee's will provide a very poor quality print.

Our professional squeegees and inks have changed two basic elements of traditional screen printing:
The angle of the squeegee is held upright at about 60-70 degrees
- The higher angle lets the sharp edge of the blade do the work for you
- Angles too low force the ink through the screen and bleeding will result

Less pressure is used with the squeegee when printing
- The blade on the squeegee should not flex or bend whilst printing
- You don't need to push the ink through the screen - the ink will naturally be drawn through onto the material below - you just need to guide the squeegee with even pressure

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Product, application and technical support:
www.EZIscreen.com

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