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Marking Methods

Numberall's Marking Methods

Metal Marking

Metal marking is a process used to create permanent identification marks, such as serial numbers, date codes, or product codes on a product. These marks are created by using a marking device with characters or symbols to indent metal. Numberall manufactures the equipment that is used for the indenting process.

One of the simplest pieces of marking equipment is the [hand stamp](#). A hand stamp is a rectangular piece of metal with a character engraved on one end. To create an indent of a character in an object, the character end is held against the product you wish to mark, while striking the opposite end with a hammer. The same concept holds true for our more complex equipment, but instead, a press is used to create the force necessary for indenting. In addition, some of our more complex equipment can automatically advance the numbers, to create consecutive serial numbers.

Hot Stamping

Hot Stamping essentially "brands" a product, by using a heated marking device with which to indent the material. Numberall produces a vast selection of marking equipment that can be equipped for hot stamping. To add color or decoration, a Hot Stamp Press with foil can be used.

Dot Marking

Dot Marking is a micro-percussion marking technology. It uses a vibrating single-point tool that indents a series of dots to create characters, digits, and logos into metals, treated/untreated wood, and plastics.

Industry Uses of Numberall's Products

Any time you see a stamped number, it just might be Numberall's. Some examples of where you might find specific industry uses of our metal marking include:

- Foil packaging of Lipton's Cup o' Soup®™
- Cardboard containers of General Foods®™ products
- Hotel keys to identify room numbers
- Metal Pet I.D. Tags (e.g., rabies, name, address, etc.)
- Numerous other common consumer items

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Other Marking Methods

There are other methods, besides indenting, available to create identification marks.

Laser Marking

Laser marking uses a laser beam to create a shallow character in the part. The advantage to this method is that there is no stress on the part and nearly any kind of font or graphic can be created to be produced on a part.

However, the entire system must be enclosed to protect users from the laser beam and there is a high cost associated with laser marking.

Chemical Etching

Chemical etching is practical for creating the same mark every time, by using a caustic acid and silk screen to burn away a shallow mark on the part. However, the screen will eventually wear-out and require replacement. In addition, extreme care must be taken when handling the acid, as it is very caustic.

InkJet Marking

Inkjet marking utilizes a printer that sprays a stream of ink in the shape of a character on the product. It is very fast, but also very messy and is not permanent.

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