Craft Ink Cheat Sheet: Choosing the Right Ink

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| **Ink Type** | **Best For** | **Pros** | **Cons** | **Surface Type** | **Drying Time** | **Waterproof** |
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| Dye Ink | Cardstock, porous  surfaces, layering | Fast-drying, vibrant, blends well,  watercolour effects possible | Not waterproof, fades in sunlight,  transparent | Porous (paper, card) | Quick | No |
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| Pigment Ink | Textured surfaces,  embossing, dark card | Waterproof, archival, opaque,  fade-resistant | Slow drying, messy, needs more  cleaning | Porous & some  non-porous | Slow (great for  emboss) | Yes |
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| Solvent Ink | Vinyl, glass, metal,  outdoor projects | UV & abrasion resistant, works on  non-porous surfaces | Not indoor-safe, reacts with  alcohol markers | Non-porous (metal,  plastic) | Medium to Fast | Yes |
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| Chalk Ink | Elegant finishes, light/dark  cardstock | Matte look, quick drying, wide colour  range | Less durable, not waterproof | Cardstock, paper | Quick | No |
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| Fabric Ink | Textiles, wood, mixed  media | Heat-set washable, versatile | Needs heat to set, slower to dry | Fabric, wood, porous | Slow (heat set) | Yes (after  heat set) |
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| Hybrid Ink | Multi-technique stamping | Quick-drying, low reactivity,  multi-surface friendly | Not as vibrant as pure  dye/pigment | Multi-surface | Fast | Yes / No  depends |
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| Embossing Ink | Heat embossing | Sticky, slow-drying, embossing  powder ready | Mostly clear, only for embossing | Cardstock, paper | Very Slow | No |
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| Edible Ink | Cake/food decorating | Food-safe, vibrant colour | Requires special printer | Food surfaces only | Quick | No |
| Scratch & Sniff | Novelty crafts | Scent-releasing fun factor | Limited use, scent fades | Paper | Medium | No |