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YOUR CUSTOM PRINTING & PACKAGING PARTNER FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESSES



Custom Zip Up Hoodies: Printed Full-Zip Hoodies Specified to Survive the Zipper

Product Image













Details

Custom zip up hoodies are full-zip fleece hoodies decorated on the left chest, sleeves, hood side, or back, with the artwork kept clear of the zipper. Choose the order channel by quantity, the blank by fabric weight and zipper hardware, and the decoration by color count. Approve bulk production only after a washed, zipped sample passes inspection.

Who Orders Custom Zip-Up Hoodies, and What Must the Garment Do? [↑](#)

Four buyer groups share the same search results, and each wants something different. Office managers, HR teams, site supervisors, and distributors buy outer layers for crews. A 2026 [wholesale buyer's guide](#)^[1] notes that warehouse and field staff need a layer they can take off in seconds without removing a hard hat, safety glasses, or a lanyard. The same guide warns that zipper hardware, double

placket stitching, and split pockets raise the cost of the blank before any decoration is added.

Coaches, student councils, and event organizers buy for a fixed date and a mixed size run, and they often weigh a cheaper pullover against a zip-up that reads as a team jacket. Shopify owners and independent streetwear labels test designs one piece at a time and care about fabric weight, embroidery quality, and zipper feel. Gift buyers mostly worry about fit, thickness, and whether the zipper lasts. Because each group needs a different channel, this page separates them rather than writing for a generic hoodie fan.

Why Do Zip-Up Orders Fail Where Pullovers Succeed? [↑](#)

The problem is structural. A zipper splits the front into two panels, adds bulk, and pulls on the fabric around it. [USA Teamwear's design guide](#)^[2] warns that any graphic crossing it can "crack, lift, or look split." The guide also rates DTF and heat-transfer vinyl as weak near the zipper.

The failures usually show up after delivery, not at approval. An [analysis of full-zip construction](#)^[3] explains the mechanism: cotton fleece shrinks in the dryer while the nylon zipper tape does not, so a wave forms down the chest. One verified [Walmart buyer](#)^[4] wrote, "Zipper broke on first day." Another [reviewer of the Gildan 18600](#)^[5] returned a "Heavy Blend" hoodie because it was only "regular sweatshirt weight." A [Printify seller](#)^[6] warned that DTG white printed on dark fleece "will never truly be 'white.'" On a team order, a wash that triggers zipper waves becomes a complaint about the whole batch, not a single defect.

The fix is to quote against a written spec. Custom Printed Full-Zip Hoodies (provisional SKU NSKU-753-02) are scoped by fabric ratio and weight, zipper material, decoration zones that respect zipper clearance, and a washed pre-production sample. No factory test data, capacity, or certification has been published for this SKU yet. MOQ, production days, unit weight, and wash results are therefore confirmed at the quote and sample stage rather than promised here.



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What Is a Custom Printed Full-Zip Hoodie, and Where Can Artwork Go? [↑](#)

A custom printed full-zip hoodie is a hooded fleece sweatshirt with a full-length front zipper, two front panels, ribbed cuffs and hem, and either split kangaroo or side-seam pockets. It is decorated by screen print, embroidery, DTG, or DTF. Fabric weight is the spec buyers misread most often. [Printful's weight guide](#)^[7] classes hoodies as lightweight up to about 280 g/m², midweight at 280–350 g/m², and heavyweight at 350 g/m² and above. By that scale, the widely used [Gildan 18600](#)^[8], at 8.0 oz/yd² (271 g/m²), falls in the light band despite its "Heavy Blend" name.



Zone	Typical use	Size or clearance boundary
Left or right chest	Logo embroidery or small print	Chest area example of 3.25 in wide × 3 in high on Carhartt K122 ^[9]
Edge beside zipper	Any method	Prints about 0.5–1 in and embroidery about 1–1.5 in from the zipper (USA Teamwear ^[2])
Full back	Team name or large graphic	Jumbo print up to 18 × 23 in, 50-piece minimum, +\$1.00 per piece at Threadbird ^[10]
Across the zipper	Exception only	Threadbird quotes it per job; Printful ^[11] cannot guarantee alignment across panels

Use the table as a default layout: a small mark on the chest, large art on the back, and sleeves or the

hood side for secondary hits. A cross-zipper graphic is a separately quoted exception that has to be sampled, not a standard print position. Scale chest art to the smallest size in the run, because a mark sized for 3XL will crowd the zipper on a small.

How Do You Spec, Proof, and Approve a Full-Zip Order? [↑](#)

Step 1: Choose the route by quantity

Print-on-demand suits single pieces and small tests. [Printful's help center](#)^[12] states that most products fulfill in an average of 2-5 business days, excluding shipping, and that over 97% of orders ship within 5 business days. According to [Sunday's 2026 guide](#)^[13], decorating stock blanks typically starts at around 10-25 pieces, while cutting from roll fabric starts at about 100 pieces including sizes. Factories that change zippers, pockets, or patterns often plan around [100 pieces per color per style](#)^[14]. Get the minimum in writing from the supplier you actually use.

Step 2: Lock fabric, zipper, and lining in one spec sheet

A quotable request lists the fiber ratio, weight in both oz/yd² and g/m², the pre-shrink requirement, zipper material and brand, top and bottom stops, pocket type, hood lining, and size range. [Sunday](#)^[13] recommends 280-400 GSM and 80/20 to 95/5 pre-shrunk cotton-poly for company hoodies. Full-zip construction adds a placket operation, and [Yite](#)^[15] reports that zipper installation takes roughly 15-20% more labor than a pullover. Do not swap zipper brand, tooth type, or pocket structure mid-run, because each change moves both cost and schedule.



The brushed fleece interior is a regulated surface, not just a comfort feature. [CPSC's clothing guidance](#)^[16] lists "linings with exposed areas, such as full-front zippered jackets" among exposed parts. A raised-surface interior may therefore need its own 16 CFR Part 1610 test even when the shell fabric qualifies for an exemption.

Step 3: Match decoration to quantity and color count

Method	Best fit	Public cost or minimum anchor	Zip-up risk
Screen print	1–4 spot colors, larger runs	About \$8–12 per unit at 100–500 pieces (Sino Finetex ^[17])	Thick ink in the zipper seam cures unevenly and cracks
Embroidery	Chest logos, uniform look	About \$12–18 on mid runs; 6-piece minimum at Carhartt ^[18]	Dense stitching near the zipper puckers the placket
DTG	One-off, full-color art	No minimum; 2–5 business days at Printful ^[12]	White on dark fleece shows base color (r/Printify ^[6])
DTF	Small full-color runs, poly blends	Usually one piece; priced per transfer	Rated weak near zippers and thick seams (USA Teamwear ^[2])

These cost anchors are supplier marketing figures from 2026 pages, not market rates, so use them only as targets when requesting quotes. Sunday's rule of thumb is embroidery for a logo and an understated feel, and print for color, scale, and graphic-led designs. Embroidery on 50/50 fleece can also pucker after washing. [Embroiderers](#)^[19] recommend cut-away stabilizer and pre-washing the blank rather than relying on tear-away backing.

Step 4: Preflight the artwork file



Before the proof, confirm vector or high-resolution art, the spot color count that sets screen cost, whether dark fleece needs a white underbase, the print size for each garment size, and zipper clearance on both panels. Approval is also what starts the schedule. [Threadbird](#)^[20] begins counting turnaround only after it has print-ready artwork, an approved mock, and a paid invoice. A week lost to revisions is a week added to delivery.

Step 5: Sign off a washed, zipped sample, then run bulk

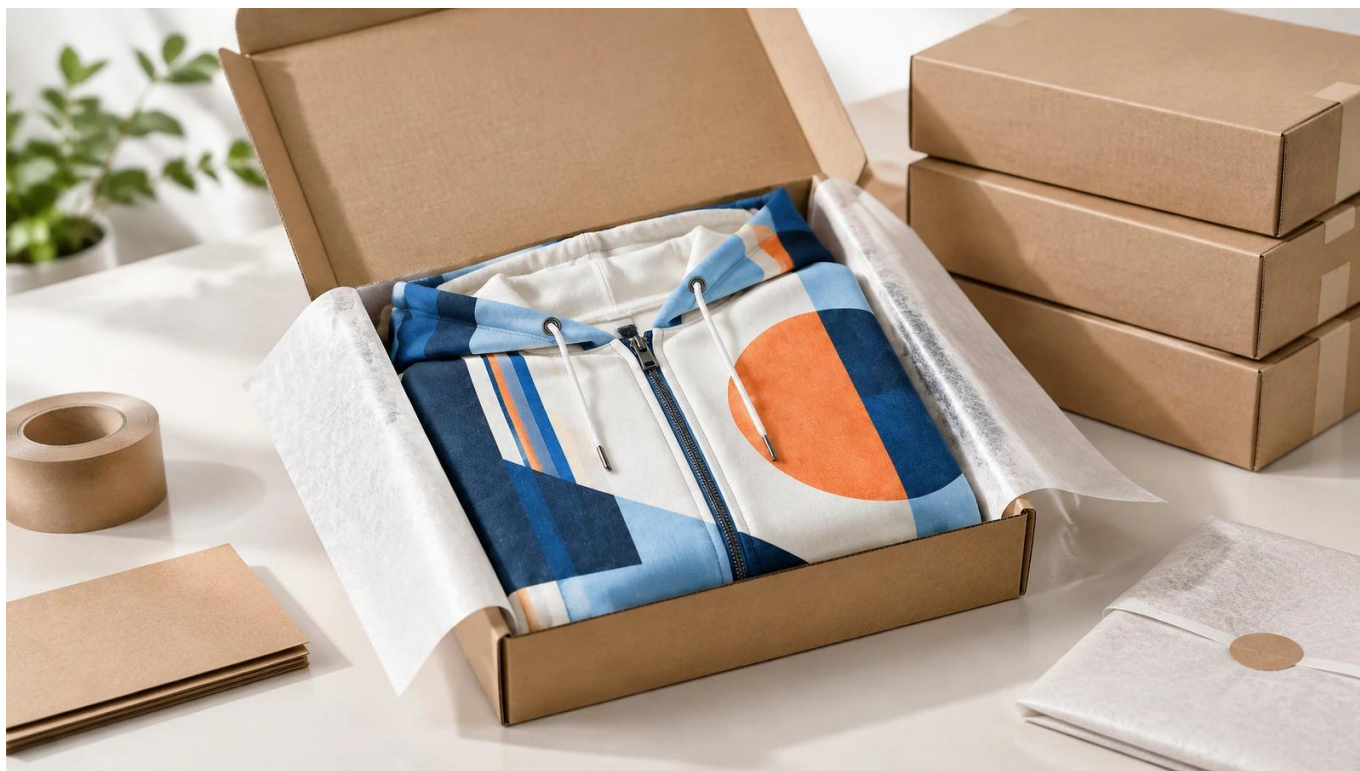
A sample that looks clean can still fail. In a 2026 [Ninghow case study](#)^[21], fine cracks appeared in the

heaviest ink zones only after washing and hand-stretching. [Yite's^{\[15\]}](#) line rule is to wash-test samples three times before bulk. Cure settings must follow the ink or film data sheet. [Design Brand Print^{\[22\]}](#) notes that under-cured plastisol stays tacky and over-cured ink turns brittle. Sign-off should cover color on light and dark bodies, alignment of the two panels, how the zipper slider runs against the print, shrinkage, hood shape, and ribbing.



Bulk production typically runs pattern, fabric and trims, cutting, decoration, sewing, and then QC. When a design must cross the placket, decorate the cut panels before the zipper is sewn rather than pressing over finished teeth.

Step 6: Inspect zipper function alongside decoration



[Ninghow's defect checklist](#)^[23] flags zipper waves, tooth snags, and misaligned front panels as must-check items. It notes that a zipper can pass visual inspection and still fail in wear because of tape stress or uneven placket stitching. Run each zipper end to end several times, check for fabric caught in the teeth, confirm the hem ends meet, and measure decoration position against the agreed tolerance. For lab evidence, [ASTM D2061](#)^[24] covers tooth, stop, slider-lock, and pull strength. Print wash fastness is commonly tested to AATCC TM61. Without a report, do not call any decoration "wash-proof."

Step 7: Clear US compliance before launch

Under [16 CFR 1610.4](#)^[25], a raised-surface fabric is Class 1 when its burn time exceeds 7.0 seconds or when only surface flash occurs. Class 3 fabric cannot be sold as clothing. [CPSC](#)^[16] requires a General Certificate of Conformity for adult garments. Children's sizes need a CPC instead, and their zippers must be lead-tested. Labels must list fiber content by weight, the manufacturer name or RN, and the country of origin under [16 CFR 303.16](#)^[26], so a decorator should never cut out the original label.

Youth styles carry a specific hazard. [CPSC](#)^[27] counts 26 deaths and 73 nonfatal incidents linked to neck and hood drawstrings on children's outerwear between 1985 and June 2019, so youth hoods should ship without drawstrings. California's [AB 1817](#)^[28] bans regulated PFAS in new textiles, and its total organic fluorine threshold drops from 100 ppm to 50 ppm on January 1, 2027. Ask for test data on any water-repellent fleece. Imported cotton blends also face closer scrutiny after [DHS added 43 companies](#)^[29] to the UFLPA Entity List on July 31, 2026.

Step 8: Ship, then make reorders repeatable



Always state production days and transit days separately. A China-made custom run of 300–500 pieces takes about 25–35 days after sample approval, plus about 10 days by sea, per [Yite^{\[15\]}](#). Q4 lengthens knit and embroidery queues, and a mixed order ships at the pace of its slowest line. For reorders, archive the approved proof, the thread and ink references, the washed sample, and the size breakdown so the next batch matches the same blank and settings.

Which Channel and Blank Fit Your Order and Budget? [↑](#)

Channel	Example	Minimum	Production time	Watch-out
Print-on-demand	Printful, Printify	None	2–5 business days average before shipping (Printful^[12])	Fixed blanks; no screen print
Online screen printer	Threadbird, ooShirts	24 per style at Threadbird; 12 for screen print and 1–11 by DTG at ooShirts^[30]	7–10 business days standard after approval (Threadbird^[20])	Small runs cost more; over-zipper quoted separately
Local fast-turn shop	Yes We Print	None on most printing	8 standard, 6 rush, 4 super rush business days (Yes We Print^[31])	New embroidery files add digitizing time
Workwear program	Carhartt Company Gear	6 embroidery / 12 screen print	About 30 business days (Carhartt^[18])	Highest unit price; chest-size logos
Overseas OEM	Cut-and-sew factory	Often about 100 per color (VANRD^[14])	About 25–35 days plus sea freight (Yite^[15])	Sampling time, labeling, UFLPA records

Pick the channel by order shape. Budget events with a few spot colors fit a screen printer and a basic blank, with back art and a small chest mark. Online stores selling single full-color pieces fit print-on-demand. Jobsite crews that need a uniform look fit a workwear program if the schedule allows. Overseas cut-and-sew makes sense only when you need a custom pattern, fabric, or zipper.

Blank	Fabric	Weight	Hardware	Price anchor
Gildan 18600	50/50, unlined hood	8.0 oz/yd ² (271 g/m ²)	Metal kissing zipper (YKK per Threadbird)	\$22.95 each at 100–199 pieces, one color, at Threadbird ^[10]
Independent SS4500Z	80/20 on most solids, jersey-lined hood	8.5 oz	Metal kissing zipper	\$35.65 with one print at Printful ^[32]
Independent IND4000Z	Three-end fleece	10.0 oz/yd ² (~330 GSM)	#5 antique nickel	Quote-based (Blankstyle ^[1])
Carhartt K122	50/50, loose workwear fit	10.5 oz (Triple Crown ^[33])	Full-length zipper	\$59.99–\$64.99 before branding (Carhartt ^[9])

The 18600 is an event and volunteer blank, not a heavyweight, while the SS4500Z suits retail-feel merch and the IND4000Z suits streetwear drops. Weight figures from different sellers mix oz/yd² and GSM, so list both on any quote. Certificates also have limits: Gildan's [OEKO-TEX certificate 68252](#)^[34] is Class II and covers the listed blanks, not the printing or embroidery added afterward.

What Should You Remember Before Requesting a Quote? [↑](#)

- **Keep artwork off the zipper teeth.** — about 0.5–1 in clearance for prints, 1–1.5 in for embroidery ([Source](#))
- **"Heavy Blend" is not a heavyweight spec.** — the 280 g/m² midweight line sits above the 18600's 271 g/m² ([Source](#))
- **POD is fastest for single pieces.** — 2–5 business days average fulfillment, shipping extra ([Source](#))
- **Workwear programs trade speed for brand trust.** — 6-piece embroidery minimum, about 30 business days ([Source](#))
- **Exposed fleece linings need flammability evidence.** — raised surfaces are Class 1 above a 7.0-second burn time ([Source](#))
- **US decorated apparel is a growing category.** — \$5.11 billion in 2023, with a 13.2% CAGR forecast for 2024–2030 ([Source](#))
- **Global decoration demand is rising faster.** — \$28 billion in 2025, projected at \$67.3 billion by 2032 ([Source](#))

Ready to Scope Your Custom Full-Zip Hoodie Order? [↑](#)

A full-zip hoodie succeeds or fails at the zipper. Keep decoration in the chest, sleeve, and back zones; write fabric weight in both units; name the zipper hardware; and approve only a sample that has been washed, stretched, and zipped. For Custom Printed Full-Zip Hoodies (NSKU-753-02), MOQ, production days, unit weight, and wash results are set at quote and sample, not assumed. Send your quantity, size split, target in-hand date, and artwork to request a quote and a washed pre-production sample.

^[1]Blankstyle: 2026 wholesale zip-up buyer's guide covering use cases, cost, and blanks. [↪](#)

^[2]USA Teamwear: Full-zip design mistakes, zipper clearance, and method ratings (2026-10-01). [↪](#)

^[3]Military Budget: Explains zipper wave caused by mismatched cotton and tape shrinkage. [↪](#)

^[4]Walmart Business reviews: Verified buyer reporting a zipper failure on day one. [↪](#)

- ^[5]Walmart 18600 reviews: Buyers dispute the "heavy" weight claim on Gildan 18600. [↵](#)
- ^[6]r/Printify: Seller thread on DTG white ink on dark hoodies (2025-11-21). [↵](#)
- ^[7]Printful weight guide: Defines light, mid, and heavy hoodie weight bands in g/m². [↵](#)
- ^[8]Printful Gildan 18600: Product specifications and pricing for the 18600 zip hoodie. [↵](#)
- ^[9]Carhartt K122: Company Gear pricing and logo area for the Marquette full-zip. [↵](#)
- ^[10]Threadbird 18600: Price tiers, upcharges, and over-the-zipper quoting for Gildan 18600. [↵](#)
- ^[11]Printful all-over zip hoodie: Disclaims cross-panel design alignment on zip hoodies. [↵](#)
- ^[12]Printful Help Center: Average fulfillment times and the share of orders shipped within 5 days. [↵](#)
- ^[13]Sunday guide: 2026 custom hoodie guide on minimums, GSM, and decoration choice. [↵](#)
- ^[14]VANRD: Zip-up hoodie manufacturer describing per-color planning quantities and process. [↵](#)
- ^[15]Yite Clothing: Labor, wash-test, and lead-time ranges for full-zip hoodies (2026-04-01). [↵](#)
- ^[16]CPSC clothing guidance: Exposed linings, the GCC requirement, and children's zipper lead testing. [↵](#)
- ^[17]Sino Finetex: Screen print versus embroidery per-unit cost ranges by quantity. [↵](#)
- ^[18]Carhartt brand guide: Embroidery and screen print minimums and customization turnaround. [↵](#)
- ^[19]r/Machine_Embroidery: Hoodie embroidery puckering after washing, with stabilizer advice. [↵](#)
- ^[20]Threadbird turnaround: When production timing starts and standard turnaround ranges. [↵](#)
- ^[21]Ninghow cracking case: Print cracks revealed only after washing and stretching (2026-10-03). [↵](#)
- ^[22]Design Brand Print: Cure windows must follow ink data sheets and test samples. [↵](#)
- ^[23]Ninghow defect checklist: Zipper wave, snag, and panel alignment inspection points. [↵](#)
- ^[24]ASTM D2061: Standard test methods for zipper strength. [↵](#)
- ^[25]eCFR 16 CFR 1610.4: Flammability classes for plain and raised-surface clothing textiles. [↵](#)
- ^[26]eCFR 16 CFR 303.16: FTC textile label content requirements. [↵](#)
- ^[27]CPSC drawstrings: Children's upper outerwear drawstring hazard and incident data. [↵](#)
- ^[28]AB 1817 summary: California PFAS textile restrictions and fluorine thresholds. [↵](#)
- ^[29]DHS: UFLPA Entity List expansion announced 2026-07-31. [↵](#)
- ^[30]ooShirts: Screen print minimums and no-minimum DTG terms. [↵](#)
- ^[31]Yes We Print: Standard, rush, and super rush turnaround tiers. [↵](#)

^[32]Printful SS4500Z: Independent Trading Co. zip hoodie pricing on Printful. [↵](#)

^[33]Triple Crown: Carhartt K122 midweight 10.5 oz custom listing. [↵](#)

^[34]OEKO-TEX Label Check: Gildan certificate 68252, Class II scope. [↵](#)

Product Option