

PREPARING FILES FOR
DIGITAL+OFFSET PRINTING**DOCUMENT BLEEDS**

Make sure that all graphics and images intended to bleed off the page are extended **at least .125" beyond the edge of the page** and that crop and bleed marks are included in your print PDF.

COLOR

All images should be set up for the appropriate color space: CMYK, PMS or grayscale—**NOT** RGB. If your document contains spot colors, make sure all text and graphics are set up in the proper PMS colors. All black text should be 100% black. If you are using rich black in your document, please use the following CMYK breakdown: *C40 M20 Y0 K100*

RESOLUTION

We recommend a resolution of at least 300 DPI for best print quality. Low-res graphics **will** print blurry or pixelated.

WORKING FILES

If you are supplying working files, we require a packaged application file including all fonts and linked graphics used in the document.

FINAL FILES

Please provide a high-res print quality PDF with crop and bleed marks, bleeds pulled out, and all fonts and graphics embedded. Layouts should be set up as readers' spreads, not printer spreads. **We prefer single page high-res PDFs for saddle-stitched projects.** Include your packaged native files for ANY projects that include die cutting, embossing, or foil.

PREFLIGHT

Before you submit files for print, please spellcheck text, review the color mode and resolution of images, and confirm that the file dimensions match your project specs.

PROOFING

We recommend some type of proof for all digital & offset projects. Proofing helps us to ensure you get the result you are expecting when your job comes off the press. Soft or hard proofs are available upon customer request.

PLEASE NOTE: DXP supports Adobe Creative Cloud files (InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop, and Acrobat) for print. Canva files may not be print-ready and could require additional preflight charges to make them suitable for printing. If you need assistance creating print-ready artwork, Digital Xpress offers professional design services—please ask about pricing.

PREPARING FILES FOR LARGE FORMAT PRINTING

DOCUMENT BLEEDS

We recommend 1/8" bleeds for large format projects. If we are finishing your project with hems and/or grommets, please leave at least 2" between the trim and your live area.

COLOR

All images should be CMYK or grayscale—not RGB. Our large format presses do not support spot colors.

RESOLUTION

Viewing distance governs file output and image quality. We use the following rules of thumb for minimum resolution at full size:

CLOSE (1'-3') 200 DPI

CLOSE-MEDIUM (3'-10') 150 DPI

MEDIUM-FAR (10'-20') 100 DPI

FAR (over 20') 75 DPI

WORKING FILES

Vector graphics produced in Adobe Illustrator are your best bet for small, easy to transfer files and sharp final output because they scale seamlessly.

When working with large dimensions, raster images carry a large file size (at least 300+ MB) and are difficult for your computer to render.

Photos can be used per the recommended resolutions above. Make sure all images are embedded in your working files before exporting to PDF. If you supply working files, all linked fonts and graphics used in the document must be included in addition to the native file.

WORKING AT A SCALED PERCENTAGE

If your artwork will be larger than the maximum allowed dimensions in your native application, you can scale down your file proportionately. The max dimension for both height and width in InDesign is 216". For Illustrator, max dimensions are 227.5" for both height and width.

Scaled images should be half the scale and double the resolution, so a 120" x 80" photo at 100 DPI becomes a 60" x 40" photo at 200 DPI. When you link the images into InDesign or Illustrator, you will need this half-size image because your document is half the final size.

Please indicate the scale of your final file when submitting for print.

FINAL FILES

Please provide an EPS or PDF for printing. We recommend the Press-Quality PDF setting for both raster and vector-based designs.

PREFLIGHT

Before you submit files for print, please spellcheck text, review the color mode and resolution of any images, and confirm that the file dimensions match your project specs.

PROOFING

Soft proofs are recommended. At your request we can run a reduced size printed proof of your large format project and, if requested, one section of the design at full scale.

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