ARTWORK SET UP / FILE FORMATS

Vector Files:

Vector artwork is an image created of points and paths. This results in artwork that is editable, scalable, and able to be separated for spot color reproduction. When preparing your graphic think of your image as line art- is it something you could trace with a pencil? The computer aided (CAD) plotters and routers follow these lines and points to cut the material using a razor or rotary cutting tool.

Follow these tips for Vector file set up:
Be sure you have converted all fonts to outlines or curves. Strokes should also be outlined, and overlapping elements joined or combined as needed. Vector files can be submitted to scale, please be sure to note the finish size when ordering. There are many file formats that can contain vector elements. Common file extensions are .ai, .eps, .pdf, .cdr, .svg and .ps. These formats may also contain raster artwork, so be sure to view in outline mode.

If lines are not joined properly the graphics will not cut correctly. The best way to review your set up is to view in outline mode. If you notice overlapping lines, open end points or an excessive amount of anchor points there is still more set up needed. If your graphics appear as an empty box when viewed in outlined mode they are actually placed images and need to be digitized. If the text appears black it is still live and needs to be converted to outlines or paths.

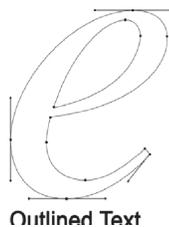| PREVIEW MODE						
VIEWED IN OUTLINE MODE						
	PROPER SET UP	LIVE TEXT	EXCESSIVE POINTS	OVERLAPPING CUT LINES	PLACED IMAGE NOT VECTOR ART	STROKE NOT OUTLINED
FIX	SAVE AS .AI OR SIMILAR	CONVERT FONT TO CURVES/ OUNTLINED	CLEAN UP / DIGITIZE	COMBINE SHAPES AND JOIN ELEMENTS	IMAGE NEEDS TO BE DIGITALLY PRINTED	OFFSET OR OUTLINE PATH

Raster Files/Images:

Raster graphics are resolution dependent. These files are pixel based images, so they cannot scale up to an arbitrary resolution without loss of apparent quality. This property contrasts with the capabilities of vector graphics, which easily scale up to the quality of the device rendering them. Raster graphics deal with photographs and photo-realistic images, gradients and custom digital effects.

Determining the most appropriate image resolution for a given print resolution will depend on viewing distance and media used. Typically, a resolution of 100 to 150 pixel per inch AT FINISH SIZE works well for sign and banner printing.

Acceptable file formats for printing:
EPS (Encapsulated Post Script)
AI (Adobe Illustrator)
PDF (Adobe PDF)
PSD (Adobe Photoshop)
TIFF (High Resolution TIFF)
JPG (High Resolution JPEG)

Outlined Text   Vector Artwork   Raster Artwork

***Thumbnail sized JPG's or images taken off general websites generally are optimized for viewing on a screen at 72dpi at size and will not be usable for sign production without design work.

Please feel free to call us if you have any further questions, we're here to help!

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