

Help Sheet

Creating PDF files for Large Format Digital Output

“This sheet is intended to help you create documents that are ready for large format printing. We prefer that all files are supplied as a PDF - unlocked, with no bleed & minimum of 150ppi final output size. Please take the time to read the notes below — it could save you time and money!”

Resolution

The recommend resolution for medium to large outputs (over A3 size) on the Flatbed & UV printer is a minimum of 150ppi at final output size. As a general rule, file sizes should rarely exceed 500mb in size.

Never rotate Pixel-based files in any package other than PhotoShop. Bitmap format logos, etc... should be at least 300ppi at final output size, or preferably supplied as vector-based files.

Illustrator

All Illustrator formats are accepted. All text must be converted to paths /outlines. Supply all linked, placed, and embedded images as separate files, i.e. as a PhotoShop or Tiff file.

PhotoShop

We recommend that all raster images used are supplied as PhotoShop PSD or TIFF files.

Make sure all PhotoShop files have been saved with an embedded ICC colour profile.

InDesign

Make sure that your page sizes are created in proportion to your final output size i.e. 1:1, 1:2, 1:4, 1:10 ratios.

Please ensure that all the elements in your document are supplied. You can use the ‘Package’ function in InDesign located in the ‘file’ menu. Be sure to copy all your fonts to the same folder. Open Type Face (OTF) & Postscript rather than True type are preferred. Also include with your job a hard copy (or PDF soft copy) of your final artwork for checking purposes.

Remember that any faults in your original file will be magnified at large output sizes.

White ink

Elements to be output with white ink need to be placed on a separate layer. Areas to be printed with white ink need to be filled with a spot colour called ‘White Ink’ and have the fill / stroke set to overprint in the Attributes tab (for Illustrator & InDesign). White ink can be used in PhotoShop by creating a spot channel and naming it ‘White Ink’.

Remember - Postscript is relatively limited in regard to the stepping of blends / gradients at large output sizes. For best results, create all blends / gradients you require in PhotoShop at the correct size and import directly into you layout document.

PDF workflow

PDF files cannot be edited (no colour matching / correction).

Documents that need to be output in tiles such as wall paper and display systems need to be supplied as a native document not as a PDF. The PDF file needs to be created at the correct resolution for specified output device (see Photoshop section).

Proofing and scanning

If you are unsure about your image quality, our proofing service is available at a nominal charge. You can also supply us with transparencies, negatives or photographic prints for hi-resolution scanning on our in- house scanning facilities.

Colour Matching: For editable files only, not PDF.

Large format printers cannot match Pantone spot colours perfectly. We recommend you choose your colour/s from the Pantone “Coated” swatch library and leave it as a spot colour for the most accurate colour match.

Profile Cut

If a file is to be cut on the Oce Procut either as a rectangle or an intricate shape you need to create a spot colour and call it ‘Through Cut’ and the shape of the cut needs to be allocated this new colour ‘Through Cut’ as an outline and placed on a separate layer and sent to the back (for Illustrator & InDesign).

Vinyl Cutting

Documents to be vinyl cut should be supplied as native Illustrator (ai) or eps formats only. All strokes & text need to be outlined. The document should only have ‘Fills’. Overlapping paths of the same fill colour need to be combined in the ‘Pathfinder’. View document in outline mode to make sure no unnecessary cuts will be made.

If you are unsure about anything in this document, please give us a call on 07 5493 2577!