

Recommended File Formats

PREFERRED FORMAT: VECTOR-BASED PROGRAMS

Adobe Illustrator

Adobe Acrobat (pdf)

Any version acceptable, we currently use the most current update from Creative Cloud.

Illustrator is our design software, along with HotDoor CADTools, for our shop drawings. What to ask for:

Are there live fonts in the file? If so, convert all fonts to outlines. If unsure or unable to outline fonts, provide font(s) file(s). If it is a font activated through Adobe Fonts, please let us know. Save as .eps or .ai in most current version possible.

Are there placed images or photos in the file? Any images placed in the layout should be embedded. If not embedded, provide images as separate files so we can link them.

Are specific colors required? We use PMS Coated color book for matching, as well as popular paint vendors. CMYK is not suitable for color-matching purposes.

OTHER FORMATS: RASTER-BASED PROGRAMS

Photoshop

Any version ok, we currently use the most current update from Creative Cloud.

What to ask for OR what to know:

Send as TIFF or JPG format. PNG and GIF are not suitable usually due to small file size.

Files are typically photos or images, and are typically uneditable. Text used in Photoshop tiff or jpg images are typically pixelated and fuzzy.

Colors will print as the large-format printer sees them.

What is the image resolution? Resolution should be 100 to 300 dpi when used at final size.

MISC. PROGRAMS

Adobe InDesign

Microsoft Word, Publisher

Quark XPress

Pagemaker

CorelDraw, CorelPaint

FlexiSign

These are other formats that sometimes are provided to us. Sometimes they contain vector art or raster art we can extract and use. Oftentimes they are unusable.

Microsoft Word and Publisher files will need to be redrawn in Illustrator. These file formats typically contain placed images, which need to be provided to us separately if we are to use them in the desired design. They often use fonts we do not carry, these need to also be provided if we are use or match them.

Quark, Pagemaker, CorelDraw typically do not have items we can extract for use.

FlexiSign is a sign-industry design program we can access, but we don't support the most current version. Anything provided in this format will be redrawn in Illustrator.

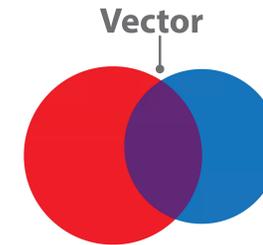
RASTER VERSUS VECTOR!

Raster images are made of pixels.
A pixel is a single point or the smallest single element in a display device. If you zoom in to a raster image you may start to see a lot of little tiny squares.

Vector images are mathematical calculations from one point to another that form lines and shapes.

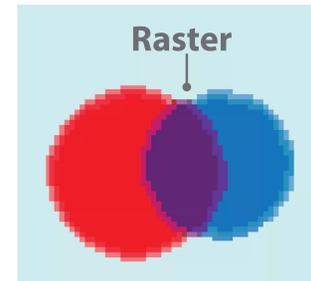
<p>RASTER </p> <p>Used for web graphics displayed on the screen.</p> <p>High resolution files can be printed at 300dpi.</p> <p>FILE TYPES: .psd .jpg .gif .png .tif .eps* .pdf*</p>	<p> VECTOR</p> <p>Used for logos, charts, icons, or any hard-edged graphics. These are usually the format that printers need to print your posters, tshirts, etc.</p> <p>FILE TYPES: .ai .eps* .pdf* .svg</p>
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* .pdf and .eps can actually be raster or vector.
Zoom in and inspect to be sure.



Vector images are often seen in these types of formats:

- AI
- EPS
- PDF
- CDR



Raster images are often seen in these types of formats:

- BMP
- TIFF
- JPG
- GIF
- PNG
- PDF



Vector Graphics



Raster Graphics