

This information is not just for the curious, but will greatly help you in supplying your files to us in the most readily-usable form. Your artwork will require fewer modifications (and eliminate surprises or delays) if you are mindful of these technical considerations.

How to **BUILD** for screenprinting:

Bleeds:

Art files with 1/8" bleeds (additional area outside of the cut lines) work best.

Margins:

The area inside the cut lines. To conform to our cutting tolerances on various equipment, keep all elements at least 1/16" inside the cut lines. Borders that meet the cut edge should be 1/16" thick.

Color Matching:

Use PANTONE Solid Coated color swatches when building for spot-color printing. Use CMYK mode for process colors to be printed in four-color or full-color digital.

Minimum Line Weight:

One color - Positive: 0.25 points; Reversed: 0.75 pt
Between different colors - 2 points to account for shifting

Font Size Minimum:

Positive: 5pt; Reversed: 5pt bold or 6 pt

Average shift tolerance:

1 to 1.5 pts on press

A small amount of variance in sheet-to-sheet registration is normal and expected in screen-printing, especially with hand-fed sheets of vinyl or other unusual materials. We build compensation into the art to manage this limitation.

Lines per inch (LPI):

Avoid using halftones on small text or tiny details. Halftones are typically processed at 81 lpi for CMYK images. Dot patterns for spot colors can be processed at 10, 18, 45, 63, or 81 lpi.

Marks:

We do not require you to create crop marks, registration targets, or color bars. We add them in prepress.

See also:

MITO Daming Guide for guidelines on domed decals
MITO Cut Line Guide for guidelines on thermal-die-cut letters

How to **SEND** your files:

File Submission Methods:

Email files directly to your sales representative for quoting and ordering. Large files may be uploaded to our FTP site*, or supplied physically on CD or DVD, flash drive, etc.

*FTP access details will be supplied by your sales representative

Our Production Software:

We use the Adobe Creative Suite (Illustrator, Photoshop) Most of our layout work is performed in Illustrator. We currently run CS6. If you are running a newer version, please backsaves your files for CS6 compatibility.

Vector Artwork Files:

EPS, AI, DWG, DXF, and vector-based PDF

Vector files are preferred in most cases. Only vector formats supply us with accurate cut lines, and the ability to separate the colors in your job into spot inks.

Raster Image Files:

TIFF, PSD, PNG, JPG, and raster PDF, EPS

Raster files are expected for **photographic images**, and frequently in four-color and full-color printing.

Special Requirements:

- Please outline all fonts, or use standard typestyles that are universally available. Due to licensing issues, you may not just send your fonts to us.
- Embed or supply all images used within your art.
- Raster images should be supplied in CMYK mode, and at least 300 dpi resolution.

Please refer to the **MITO File Submission Guidelines** for more detailed information about **vector and raster file formats.**