

FILE IMPORTING

Thank you for allowing us to meet your signage needs. We accept many types of design files from our customers for use in the production of your signs. We accept files from both IBM compatible and Macintosh computers. It is important we know which software package you used to create the file, as well as what format you saved the file in.

IMPORTANT! To ensure accuracy, please provide us with a printed color proof of all files you provide to us.

File formats come in two broad categories: **Vector** and **Bitmap**.

1. **Vector files** are created from drawing or illustration programs such as Corel Draw, Adobe Illustrator, Aldus Freehand, etc.
2. **Bitmap files** are created when an image is scanned with a scanner, taken from a digital camera, or created in a Bitmap editing program such as Windows Paint, Mac Paint, Adobe Photoshop, Corel Photo Paint, etc.

You may provide artwork in these forms:

1. on CD
2. on 100-250MB zip disks
3. via e-mail (under 5MB in size)
4. uploaded to our website (99 MB maximum per file)

* Note: For MAC files, please indicate the program that generated the file.

On the following two pages, we have listed guidelines for Bitmap and Vector artwork. For products with very large format digital graphics or for vinyl products, use the Vector guidelines. For smaller digital products (poster size or smaller), use the Bitmap guidelines.

Thank you.

SignCrafters, Inc.

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VECTOR FILES

FOR LARGE WIDE FORMAT DIGITAL PRINTING & ALL CUT VINYL SIGNS

We accept the following Vector file formats:

AI	Adobe Illustrator v10 or earlier
EPS	Encapsulated Postscript
CDR	Corel Draw v9 or earlier
HPGL	Hewlett Packard Graphics Language (Plot Files)*
DXF	Data Exchange Format (Auto CAD)*
CMX	Corel Presentation Exchange v6 or earlier

* WILL MOST LIKELY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL GRAPHIC WORK.

Please keep the following few things in mind when bringing us Vector files:

- All text must be converted to curves before export. Some programs will use the term "paths" or "outlines" in place of curves.
- All Vector files must be single layer only. We cannot cut files that have multiple Vector layers.
- Gradations can not be cut. Please use solid colors only for vinyl signs.

If possible, please use the Adobe Illustrator version 10 or earlier file format. Adobe Illustrator has proven to be the best file format to use.

EPS is very popular and usually works well. However, so many programs create EPS files in slightly unique formats that our ability to import your files is not as certain as it is with the Adobe Illustrator format. For example, we are unable to import EPS files created by Quark Express, and Adobe Photoshop EPS files are Bitmaps. There has been some success, however, in exporting a Quark Express file as an EPS, then importing it into Adobe Illustrator and saving it as an AI file.

DXF and HPGL are Computer Aided Drafting formats that may import. However, these file formats are not infinitely scaleable like EPS and AI files. Also, these two formats do not support color information.

* A word about EPS and AI files - Encapsulated Postscript is a well defined standard for printing and file exchange. Adobe Illustrator is an even better defined and adhered to subset of EPS. AI and EPS files can be either Vector, Bitmap, or both Vector AND Bitmap together in one file. We can accept ONLY Vector AI and EPS files for cut vinyl signs. Please be certain not to include any Bitmap files in the Adobe Illustrator or Encapsulated Postscript files that you bring us, unless they are for printing.

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BITMAP FILES

FOR SMALL* WIDE-FORMAT DIGITAL PRINTING ONLY
*(*Poster size or smaller)*

In addition to the Vector file formats listed on page 2, we accept the following Bitmap File Formats. Files from other programs such as Quark Express may be converted to a PDF for printing.

BMP	Windows Bitmap file
JPG	Compressed Bitmap
PCX	PC Paintbrush
PDF	Adobe Acrobat
PSD	Adobe Photoshop (V6 or earlier)
TIF	Tagged Image Format (TIFF)
DOC	Microsoft Word
XLS	Microsoft Excel
PPT	Microsoft PowerPoint

Please note that the higher the dpi and the larger the file size, the better the results. For example, a 72 dpi file may be fine for a web page, but will not enlarge well. It is best to save a file in the resolution you seek at actual size. (Vector files, however, can be enlarged with little loss of resolution.) NOTE: Bitmap files work well for many simple logos. They do not work well for complex multi-colored logos and they are not suitable for text. Please use a Vector file format if you need to provide us with text or complex logos.

Please indicate PMS colors, but note that the color will vary according to the material we print on. Our printer is a state-of-the-art unit which prints in six colors. This allows us to print in a wide range of PMS colors. We use current I.C.C. profiles that correspond to the materials we use from leading manufacturers. They will yield colors "within range". Adjusting for exact color matches is additional.