



Colorwave Graphics Artwork Preparation Guide

To ensure your artwork is print-ready and meets our standards for wide-format printing, please follow the guidelines below. Proper file preparation ensures the best possible results and helps us deliver your project efficiently. Please speak with a team CWG member if you have any questions.

Print-Ready File Format

- **Preferred Format:** Submit individual, print-ready PDF files.
- **Avoid Multi-Page Documents:** Provide separate files for each design or artwork.

Document Size / Bleeds

Please submit your file(s) at 100% of the finished size. Graphics that are square cut do not require bleed or trim marks. Graphics cut to a custom shape will require a minimum of 1/4 inch bleed beyond the cut line. *Refer to the second page for setting up custom cutting.* Be sure to include document bleeds when saving your print-ready PDF. ***If we provided you an artwork template for a specific product then please adhere to the template specs.***

Color Mode / Spot Colors

- **All files must be in CMYK.**
- **Spot Colors:** Clearly define and label any spot colors (e.g., PMS, white ink, cut lines). ***See Pg. 2 for proper naming and layering of spot white ink and cutting processes***

Image Resolution

Ensure all raster (pixel based) images are at least 125 ppi (resolution) at 100% of the printed size. Additionally, document raster effects should be set to no less than 125 ppi when your document size is at full scale. If your document is at half scale, set the raster effects to 250 ppi or 500 ppi if quarter scale. Please be sure to let us know what scale your file is if not 100% to size.

Software Compatibility

We recommend using **Adobe Creative Suite** products to create your artwork, including:

- **Adobe Illustrator**
- **Adobe Photoshop**
- **Adobe InDesign**

We suggest providing us your packaged, native design files, links and fonts for projects needing white ink and/or custom cutting processes.

If your design requires spot white ink, follow these steps:

- **Create a white ink Spot Color:** Define a custom spot color named **Spot1**.
- **Overprint Settings:** Set the **Spot1** fill to overprint.
- **Layer Position:** Place the **Spot1** layer as the topmost layer in your Adobe Illustrator or Adobe InDesign document.

Hint: Choose a unique color such as bright green for Spot1 so it can be visually identified.

If your design requires custom cutting, follow these steps:

Note: Below are the most commonly used processes. We're also capable of scoring, creasing, drilling, bevel cutting, clean-out and engraving. Ask a team CWG member for more details.

- **ThruCut (Full Cut):** Define a custom spot color named **ThruCut**. Use a stroke to outline the shape to be fully cut leaving at least a 1/4" bleed beyond the stroke line. Color the stroke using the defined **ThruCut** spot color.
- **Kiss (Peel Away Decals):** Define a custom spot color named **Kiss**. Use a stroke to outline the shape to be kiss cut leaving at least a 1/4" bleed beyond the stroke line. Color the stroke using the defined **Kiss** spot color.
- **Layer Position:** Place the **ThruCut** or **Kiss** layer as the topmost layer unless Spot1 (white ink) is used, in which case make it the second layer.

Hint: Choose a unique color such as Magenta or Cyan for either of these processes so it can be visually identified.

Before submitting your artwork, ensure:

Files are in PDF format.

Color mode is set to CMYK.

Raster images/effects are at least 125 dpi at print size.

Spot colors and layers for white ink and/or cut lines are correctly set up.

Fonts are outlined or embedded.

Links are embedded.

Thank you for choosing Colorwave Graphics. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact us at info@colorwavegraphics.com. We look forward to bringing your designs to life!