

DIGITAL TEXTILE PRINTING – FILE PREPARATION GUIDELINES

To ensure the highest print quality, color accuracy, and detail sharpness on our pigment-based machines, please prepare your files according to the guidelines below. Our printers offer a wider color gamut than standard offset printing, so proper file preparation is key to unlocking their full potential.

1. RASTER IMAGES & PHOTOS

Applies to: photography, art scans, digital painting.

- **File Format:**
 - **Recommended:** TIFF (LZW compression) or PDF. These formats support embedded color profiles natively.
 - **Avoid:** PNG (often handles embedded ICC profiles incorrectly, leading to color shifts).
- **Color Space & Profile:**
 - **Mode:** RGB.
 - **Profile:** Always embed the profile (*Embed ICC Profile*). Safest standard: **sRGB IEC61966-2.1**.
 - **Why not CMYK?** Converting photos to CMYK "clips" vibrant colors (like turquoises and oranges) that our cotton printers can reproduce. Keeping files in RGB allows our RIP software to map colors directly to the machine's maximum capabilities.
- **Resolution & Scale:**
 - Scale 1:1, recommended **300 dpi**.
 - Note: Artificial upscaling of low-res images will not improve quality.
 - **Seamless Patterns:** If the graphic is a continuous pattern, ensure it is seamless (repeats correctly on all sides: left, right, top, bottom).

2. VECTORS & LOGOS

Applies to: company logos, text, charts, geometric patterns.

- **File Format:**
 - **Recommended:** PDF (standard **PDF/X-4** is preferred).
 - **Open Files:** Please export AI or CDR files to PDF.

- **Colors & Strategies:**

- **A. Brand Colors (Fidelity Priority):** If you need to match a specific color (e.g., brand red), use **Spot Colors** from the **Pantone Solid Coated** palette. Do not convert them to CMYK! Our RIP system recognizes the color name (e.g., "Pantone 485 C") and replaces it with a precise ink recipe.
 - *Note:* Due to the nature of natural cotton, slight deviations may occur. We offer physical proofs for critical color matching.
- **B. Artistic Illustrations (Saturation Priority):** Design in RGB space. Save the PDF with RGB preserved and profile embedded (e.g., sRGB). This yields more saturated colors than standard paper printing.
- **C. If your file is already in CMYK:**
- **Mode:** Keep it in CMYK (do not convert back to RGB).
- **Profile:** Please assign ISO Coated v2 as the Input Profile.

- **Text & Curves:**

- All fonts must be converted to curves/outlines.
- Avoid transparency effects and lenses in vectors – flatten them to high-quality raster before saving the PDF to prevent errors.

3. DESIGNER CHECKLIST

ASPECT	✅ DO THIS	❌ AVOID THIS
ICC Profiles	Always embed the profile upon saving.	Do not send "Untagged" files.
Black	Use RGB Black (0,0,0) or defined Spot Color "Black".	Avoid 100% K (CMYK) only; it may appear washed out on fabric.
Effects	Flatten complex transparencies/shadows in vectors.	Do not leave live transparency layers in vectors.
Scale	Scale 1:1, 300 dpi.	Do not send small files for enlargement.

ASPECT	✔ DO THIS	✘ AVOID THIS
Filenames	Simple names, no special chars (e.g., <i>design_shirt_v1.pdf</i>).	Avoid symbols like !@#\$\$% or local diacritics.

4. ADVANCED INFO (Color Management)

If you use a calibrated monitor for soft-proofing, please contact us for our Output Profile.

- **Rendering Intent:** Our RIP defaults to *Relative Colorimetric with Black Point Compensation (BPC)*. For RGB photography, we use *Perceptual* to maintain tonal transitions.
- **Mixed Formats:** We handle PDFs containing both vectors and rasters, provided the PDF is correctly exported (PDF/X-4).