
Prepare Print-Ready Files

CHECKLIST

Ready to export your book out as a PDF? Check off each item on this list before sending us your file:

Book Interior

- Your document's page size (at 100%) matches the physical finished book size you want
- Gutter margins are wide enough for your book format and page count (e.g. a thick, perfect bound book would likely require a wider gutter margin than a wire-stitched booklet of only a few pages)
- No imagery or text is sitting outside the "safe zone" (to avoid getting unintentionally trimmed off)
- Total number of reading pages is divisible cleanly by 2 (for books with stacked pages) or by 4 (for books with nested pages or signatures)
- Page numbers are where you want them to be and appear in the right order
- Table of contents is corresponding to the correct pages

Imagery + Graphics

- Digital images are saved at 300dpi resolution
- Digital images are in CMYK color mode
- Full document is in CMYK color mode
- Vector text is outlined
- Original pieces of artwork or photographs are safely saved in a different location (e.g. sitting in a flat file, backed-up on a hard drive, saved on the cloud, or all of the above)!

Book Cover

- Exported as a separate file from the interior
- Spine width is calculated correctly
- Full-bleed designs feature at least an eighth-inch of bleed around all sides

Export Your Files as PDFs*

1. When working from an Adobe program, export your file as an "Adobe PDF (Print)"
2. Select the preset "Press Quality"
3. Export as **single pages** (*not spreads*)
4. **Do not** include any printers marks (e.g. crop marks, registration marks, etc.)
5. Include 1/8" bleed on head, foot, and fore-edges **only** (*not spine side*)
6. In "Output", convert color "to destination" as "Working CMYK U.S. Web Coated (SWOP) v2"
7. Name your file as:
YYYYMMDD_yourfullname_projectname.pdf
For example:
20250923_jamiehiggins_cookbook.pdf

**These are The Bindery's default preferences that could change on a project-by-project basis. Please contact us to see if these suggestions are right for your project.*

Questions?

CONTACT US

(414) 482-3630
info@binderymke.com
347 E Ward St.
Milwaukee, WI 53207
Open Weekdays
10AM-6PM

