

Trim, Safety & Bleed Explained

Like any industry, there are some terms in printing whose meaning may not be readily understood. When designing your file for print, it is important to know what **Trim**, **Bleed** and **Safety** are to insure your file turns out the way you plan once it is printed.

Trim refers to the final size of the file after excess edges (Bleed) have been cut off (Black Line in Fig. 2).

Bleed is the industry term for any text, color or image that go beyond the trim edge, leaving no margin. If your file is not white on all four sides, you **MUST** include bleeds in your files (Fig. 1). All text, colors or images that go to the edge of the page need to extend 1/8" (.125") beyond the edge (Trim) of the page (Yellow Line in Fig. 2). That excess text, color or image is then cut off as a part of the bindery or finishing process.

Safety refers to text, color or images that are not meant to be trimmed off of your final printed piece. Text, colors or images must be 1/8" - 1/4" (.125" -.25") from the edge of your layout (Pink Line in Fig. 2). Items placed 1/8" (.125") or closer are in danger of being trimmed off or showing inconsistent margins.

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Figure 1.



Image with Bleeds



Image without Bleeds

Figure 2.

