file types

Our Design Department mainly uses the PC platform to develop your signage proposals, but we also have access to the Apple Macs in our print department. For your reference we use the following PC software and file types:

- Gerber Omega Composer 1.56
- Adobe Creative Suite
  - Illustrator CS
  - Photoshop CS
  - InDesign CS
  - Go Live CS
  - Acrobat CS
- AutoCAD 2006 LT

FILE TYPES THAT WE PREFER:

Vector Graphics

- EPS (Encapsulated Post Script)
- Ai (Adobe Illustrator)
- PDF (Portable Document Format)
- PLT (Omega Plot File)
- DXF (Drawing Exchange Format)

Bitmap Images

- TIFF
- JPEG
- These must be a high resolution, 200 dpi + if scaled, or at least 80dpi if supplied at full size

There are two main file groups used for artwork, these are Vector and Bitmap.

A Vector graphic is made up of points which are joined together to create a shape. These mathematical objects can be scaled to any size without ever distorting. Vector graphics are used by our CNC cutting machines. The CNC software follows the lines or curves that join the points, creating an accurate reproduction out of sheet materials.

A Bitmap image is formed from pixels arranged in a grid. Their colour or location within the grid determines the appearance of the image. Bitmaps cannot be scaled up by huge amounts as they are resolution dependent, if you scale them up too much the image will appear to have jagged edges and become 'pixelated'. Bitmap images are more suited to printing.
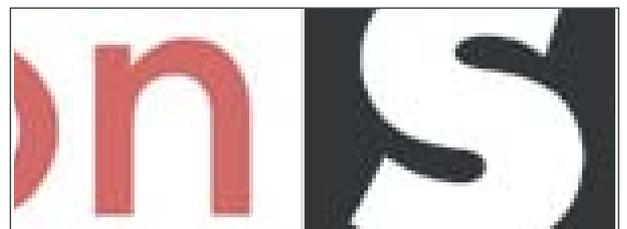

The curves and lines that form this vector give a smooth, clean looking image

Even if you scale a vector up the shapes that form the graphic will still remain smooth. The same applies if you scale it down.

This JPEG bitmap image looks quite smooth at this size

If you scale the JPEG up you get jagged edges or 'pixelation'. The severity of this depends on the image resolution

We generally prefer Vector graphics when being supplied with artwork for corporate logos or symbols etc. These should be supplied as an EPS file, Ai file, or as a PDF file. If you do not have any of these file types then we can use a Bitmap image to trace a vector outline, there is a cost implication if we undertake this work.

If you are in any doubt regarding file types then please contact our designer, Jonathan Hughes on 01604 758198 or send an e-mail to jonathanhughes@northamptonsigns.co.uk