



# Prepare your file for print

Designing your product in Adobe Illustrator may be more practical for you. Here are a few steps to help you ensure your vision comes to life perfectly on print.

## Getting started

1. Download PDF > import into Illustrator > select page 1 only (front side of template)
2. Go to Layers panel > add new layer below Layer 1 > rename new layer "My design"
3. Create your final design in new "My design" layer
4. Hide or delete all layers except "My design" layer

## Embed your images

5. Go to Window > Links > Embed Images

## Outline your text

*It's a good idea to save a backup copy of your .ai file before doing this.*

6. Outline all editable text by selecting Text > Type > Create Outlines

## Convert your colors to CMYK

7. Go to File > Document Color Mode > CMYK Color

## Save your PDF

8. Go to File > Save As > select format Adobe PDF > Save
9. Go to Adobe PDF Preset dropdown menu > select {High Quality Print} > Save PDF

*File size over 30MB? To reduce the size in Illustrator:*

10. Go to File > Save As > General > uncheck the Preserve Illustrator Editing Capabilities option > Save PDF

## More design tips

- Do not rotate or change the size of the master template
- Recommended minimum text size is 10pt (about 1/8" tall)
- Recommended black color fill is C40, M30, Y30, K100
- To make sure everything is printed, extend bleed to the red line (outer edge of art board)
- Need to use transparency effects like 'multiply', 'overlay' or gradients? Rasterize your final PDF in Photoshop then flatten the layer by selecting Save As > Photoshop PDF or JPG
- To remove overprint settings, select Window > Attributes. Then uncheck Overprint Fill and Overprint Stroke
- Save file as .pdf (recommended), .psd, .jpg, .png or .ai
- Required image resolution is 300dpi
- To help you check image sharpness, try zooming in 100-200%