SENDING GRAPHIC FILES TO US!

We use PC computers. We can also accept files from the Macintosh platform. (It is less problematic if a PC-formatted disk is used when saving files from a Mac).

File Formats:
For the vast majority of signs, vector graphics are required. Please convert any fonts used in your file to curves. (a.k.a. convert to outlines). Colours should be specified using the Pantone colour system when possible.
Preferred Vector File Formats:

CDR - CorelDraw
AI - Adobe Illustrator
EPS - Encapsulated Postscript
PDF - Adobe Acrobat
DXF - Autocad LT

Please note that these file formats can contain both vector and raster graphics. Please ensure that you are **sending vector graphics.**

Raster Graphics:
Most graphics on signs are solid colours of cut vinyl film, where vector graphics are required. Raster graphics are not generally useful to us except in the case of inkjet printing.
If we are printing a high resolution raster graphic such as a photograph or full-colour image, the file should be set up at it's full final size and at a minimum resolution of 100 dpi. (even higher is better). Raster graphics should be saved in a lossless CMYK file format such as TIFF or PSD (Photoshop's native file format). These files may be extremely large and should be provided on a compact disc. Do not use a format like JPEG (a RGB based format) which drastically reduces the size of the file, but degrades the image quality by using a "lossy" compression.

"I Have A JPEG"…
Sending a small low resolution graphic does help us see what you want, but it isn't something that can be used or be put into production. We generally must manually trace these images and/or superimpose fonts over these images to recreate a vector based version of the graphics. This has several disadvantages. First, it can take a significant amount of time to do if the graphics are complex, and secondly, there will invariably be small deviations between the original and the recreated graphics. In the case of a corporate logo especially, it is widely regarded as very important to maintain the exact proportions of a logo to maintain consistency. Only an original file can provide this. If a vector based version is available, it should be used. Many times your commercial printer or marketing department will have these files available.

Where to Send:
Small files (under 2 megabytes) can be sent as an email attachment to info@yoursolution.ca or provided on a floppy or compact disc. Large files should be provided on compact disc. If you have any questions about preparing your file, please either send them to the email address above or call our Graphics Department at 905-315-8181.

Not a Graphics professional? Vector and Raster Files Explained

Vector Graphics
Besides allowing easy manipulation of size, placement and colour of graphic elements, our computer controlled plotter and router require this type of file. Vector graphics are made up of "paths". These paths are defined by a series of points (called nodes), where the angles and curves of the segments between the nodes define the shape. Professional design, offset printing, engineering, and illustration software use this type of graphic extensively.
Since this type of graphic is defined by mathematical points and angles, they can be scaled to any size without losing quality. The curves of a shape remain smooth at any size. This is very important when dealing with signs, as the final graphic sizes are very large compared to what you might see on a printout or on a computer monitor screen.

Raster Graphics
The general public is probably most familiar with graphics saved in a raster format. These graphics are what you usually see on web pages, or when you use a scanner. These files are made up of a set of tiny blocks called pixels. When you enlarge these types of files, you can see the pixels that make up the image, revealing jagged edges. These types of files are also not very flexible to work with.
Common Raster formats includes: JPEG, TIFF, PSD, BMP, GIF, PNG.