



MY FILE CHECK

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Every file I send to a printer goes through this check.

It is a preflight profile I built in Acrobat Pro. It looks for what goes wrong on press, not on screen. Here is what it checks, and what each check protects.

TYPE

- **Fonts not embedded.** The printer has to guess a font, and the text can change.
- **Fake bold, italic or outline.** The program faked the style. It can print rough or look wrong.
- **Missing characters in an embedded font.** A letter the file uses is not in the font. It can print blank.
- **Characters with no glyph, and letter widths that do not match the font.** Spacing can shift, or a box can print.

COLOR AND INK

- **Spot colors.** A named color adds a plate nobody ordered. Registration color is the one I allow.
- **More than four plates.** A CMYK job should make four. More means a stray color somewhere.
- **Total ink above 305%.** Too much ink on the sheet can smear and dry slow.
- **Rich black with too much ink.** Black over 85% with total ink from 280–400%. It is heavy and can smudge.
- **400% ink inside the trim.** All four plates at full strength. Too heavy for the sheet.

OVERPRINT AND KNOCKOUT

- **White text, shapes and outlines set to overprint.** White that overprints prints nothing. The object disappears.
- **Gray objects set to overprint.** Objects in DeviceGray mix with what is under them and can print darker than planned.
- **Light tints under 20% set to overprint.** A pale tint that overprints can fade out.
- **Black images set to knock out.** A black image that knocks out leaves a hole. A white edge can show.

FILE

- **Unknown operators in the page description.** The page has code the reader does not know. It may not draw the way I saw it.
- **Image errors and font errors.** Damaged data inside the file.
- **File size above 40 MB.** A heavy file is slow to send and open. This flags it.

FIXES

The same profile holds fixes I can run: convert to U.S. Web Coated (SWOP) v2 and turn spot colors to CMYK, embed fonts, set white to knock out, set black text to overprint, and downsample color images above 450 ppi to 300.

CATCH IT HERE, NOT ON PRESS.