LGP.

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PRINT-READY ARTWORK GUIDELINES.

How to submit files that print cleanly, accurately, and on time. Our goal is simple: your artwork should print exactly as you expect. To make that happen, files must be prepared correctly before production. When they aren't, our art team must manually adjust, rebuild, or correct them — which is billed as Prepress / Graphic Design.

PREPRESS & GRAPHIC DESIGN FEES

$80 / HOUR · BILLED IN 15-MINUTE INCREMENTS

Applied **only** when files require correction or recreation. Following the guidelines in this document is how you avoid delays, extra costs, and quality issues.

01 BEST FILE TYPES

✓ PREFERRED — BEST QUALITY

VECTOR FILES

- AI (Adobe Illustrator)
- EPS
- Vector PDF

Why it matters: Vector scales to any size without losing quality. Ideal for apparel and DTF.

✓ ACCEPTABLE — IF PREPARED CORRECTLY

PNG WITH TRANSPARENT BACKGROUND

- Transparent background (no white or colored box)
- Sized at **100% of final print size**
- Minimum **225 DPI** (300 DPI preferred)
- No enlargement required

✗ NOT ACCEPTED FOR PRINT

- ✗ JPG or JPEG files
- ✗ Screenshots
- ✗ Low-resolution web images
- ✗ Images pulled from social media
- ✗ Files with visible backgrounds meant to be "removed later"

02 SIZE & RESOLUTION REQUIREMENTS

Artwork must be created at the **exact size you want it printed**. If the design should print 10 inches wide, the file must already be 10 inches wide. We cannot enlarge files without losing detail and print clarity.

- ✓ **225 DPI minimum** for PNG files (300 DPI preferred)
- ✓ **Vector files** preferred whenever possible — no resolution limit

Upscaling low-resolution images results in blurry or pixelated prints and will require paid file recreation.

03 BACKGROUNDS & COLORS

FOR DTF PRINTING

- ✓ Background must be **transparent**
- ✓ No white boxes
- ✓ No colored rectangles behind artwork
- ✓ No "faux transparency" (checkerboard baked into the image)

If a background is visible, we must manually remove it — which triggers prepress charges.

04 TEXT & FONTS (VECTOR FILES)

If submitting Illustrator or vector files:

- ✓ **All text must be converted to outlines.** This ensures fonts do not change or break during production.

05 AI-GENERATED ARTWORK

AI-generated images often look good on screen but are **not automatically print-ready**. The most common issues we see:

- ✗ Low resolution (72 DPI)
- ✗ Embedded backgrounds
- ✗ Raster images disguised as "high quality"
- ✗ Incorrect sizing
- ✗ Overly fine details that do not translate to fabric

If AI files require cleanup, resizing, or reconstruction, prepress fees apply.

> **SEE OUR FULL GUIDE** For prompt templates that produce print-ready artwork on the first pass — plus the seven AI mistakes that break production — download our companion resource: **AI PROMPTS FOR PRINT-READY DESIGN** at lgpapparel.com/resources.

06 CANVA USERS

Canva is acceptable only when files are set up and exported correctly.

CANVA SETUP

1. Turn on **Print Bleed**
2. Keep text and artwork inside safe margins
3. Upload the **highest-resolution artwork available**

EXPORT SETTINGS (REQUIRED)

1. Click **Share → Download**
2. File type: **PDF Print**
3. Check **Crop Marks and Bleed**
4. Color profile: **CMYK** (Canva Pro required)
5. Download at full resolution

For apparel graphics specifically: export artwork as **PNG with transparent background**, and ensure final size and DPI are correct before downloading.

07 WHAT HAPPENS IF FILES AREN'T PRINT-READY

If your files require any of the following, they will be billed as Prepress / Graphic Design at **$80/hr, in 15-minute increments**:

- ✗ Background removal
- ✗ Resolution correction
- ✗ Resizing
- ✗ Color cleanup
- ✗ Rebuilding artwork
- ✗ Font corrections
- ✗ AI file reconstruction

Files requiring full recreation may incur a minimum design fee, depending on complexity.

08 BEFORE YOU SUBMIT — QUICK CHECKLIST

- ✓ Correct file type (Vector or PNG)
- ✓ Transparent background
- ✓ Correct final size
- ✓ Minimum 225 DPI
- ✓ No screenshots or JPGs
- ✓ Fonts outlined (if vector)
- ✓ No mockups or photos

If you are unsure, ask before submitting. It is always faster and more cost-effective to confirm upfront.

QUESTIONS? ASK BEFORE PRODUCTION.

Contact us before production begins to avoid delays and added costs. Send a sample file for review and we'll tell you in one email what will and won't work — no fee, no commitment.

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