

Bleed & Trim

Art & Design

The three lines on every print layout, and what happens if artwork stops at the edge.

Trim is where the guillotine cuts. Bleed is artwork extended past that line so a slight misalignment leaves no white sliver. Safety is the margin all text stays inside.

BLEED

3 mm typical

SAFETY

3-5 mm inside trim

- Standard bleed is 3 mm; some presses ask for 5.
- Keep text at least 3-5 mm inside the trim line.
- Cutting tolerance is typically 1-2 mm.
- Background images must reach the bleed line.
- Export with crop marks and bleed included.
- Folded and bound work needs a larger allowance.

LOOK FOR IT

An A4 flyer with 3 mm bleed is set up at 216 × 303 mm and trimmed back to 210 × 297.

Anything meant to touch the edge must run past it. Anything that must not be cut has to sit well inside the safety margin.