

How to design to print to the edge

If you need printing to the edge of the paper for a poster, flyer, business card etc., then it will be printed slightly larger and the extra bit trimmed off. This extra bit is called the **bleed**.

This first image shows an A6 flyer design with a bleed of 3mm on each side:



After printing, it will be cut out so it looks like this:



If the original design didn't have a bleed then it could well look like this:



So you've designed a flyer that you want to be printed to the edge at

μ MuPrint

You must have a bleed around the edges - that's an extra 3mm on each of the four sides of any photos, background colour, or graphic elements that run off the edges. This extra will be trimmed off after printing.

If you don't have a bleed, then you may get white gaps on one or more sides of the finished item.

The outer line shows the edge of the piece of paper. The white gaps which spoil the final appearance of the flyer are there because this image was printed slightly out of position relative to the other sheets of paper. If printing a large number of sheets of paper, the image could be in a slightly different position on each one and as we cut them out altogether on the guillotine rather than individually by hand, we wouldn't see this image shift.

The bleed of 3mm needs to be added to each of the four sides and this is the same whether you want to print a business card, an A3 poster, or anything in between. In the table below are the common sizes that we print and the size of the artwork including the bleed.

Note also that all your important text and graphics must be kept well inside the finished size of the design otherwise if it's too close to the edge there's a chance that it will be cut off.

Want it easier? Then print with a white border!

If you want to print with a white border – it's cheaper and you don't have to worry about a bleed or stuff being cut off – then it's best to leave 5mm blank around each side of the design (3mm for business cards). This reduces the available area of the artwork to the dimensions shown in the end column below.

Our printers, like most on the market, do not print up to the edge of the paper which is why we recommend that you leave a 5mm white border. Then, when we cut your flyers to the final size, there will be an even border all around.

Size	Finished dimensions (mm)	Artwork dimensions with bleed (mm)	Artwork dimensions for white border (mm)
A3	420 x 297	426 x 303	410 x 297
A4	297 x 210	303 x 216	287 x 200
A5	210 x 148.5	216 x 154.5	200 x 138.5
A6	148.5 x 105	154.5 x 111	138.5 x 95
Business Card	85 x 54	91 x 60	79 x 48

If you have any questions, please call in, email contact@muprint.com or phone 0161 868 0977.