

Map Printing Process: General Information

PAPER TYPES

There are a variety of paper types offered by printing companies. Paper varies in weight, coating, and material used. When determining what paper type to use one should consider durability, water/tear resistance, folding options, and price. Below are some examples of paper types that would be suitable for map production and the general overview of each paper type.

PAPER TYPE	OVERVIEW
50# -70#offset	Standard paper used for general printing. It is relatively inexpensive, and good for everyday limited use with limited folding durability and little water resistance
70# GLS Text, Aqueous coating	This paper is similar to the offset papers with the addition of an aqueous coating giving the paper a matt like finish, some water resistance, and some folding durability
80# Discovery Gloss/Gloss book	This paper is slightly heavier and has a glossy coating giving the map some water resistance.
60# Litho finish	Similar to standard offset paper with a nice finish. Not water resistant and limited folding durability.
4.2 mil HOPSYN	This paper offers good tear resistance and is waterproof, but is fairly expensive. Very Durable.
61# - 75# Polyart	Polyart is a synthetic paper with excellent water/tear resistance. This is also the most expensive product and can pose problems with folding and ink drying. Very Durable.

TIME FRAME

Turn around time is usually around three weeks for the final product. This includes sending original map in digital format, receiving and approving proof, and final product shipment. Rush orders are often available with an additional cost.

DIGITAL FORMAT

The original map will be in a digital format for the print production company. A postscript format is the industry standard for printing. PDF's are generally used but the EPS (Encapsulated Postscript) format is considered the best format for high quality printing.

FOLDING OPTIONS

Many of the companies offer a folding option with an additional fee. The companies that offer folding options will fold the maps to fit an 8.5x11 folder or other sizes as specified.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the specific needs for quality map production the recommendations for specific jobs could vary. The traditional 50# or 70# offset paper is well suited for maps which will be replaced or for maps that will remain indoors. The offset with an aqueous coating will add some water resistance and should price well. For maps that will be used repeatedly in outdoor environments the 4.2 mil HOPSYN paper offers excellent water/tear resistance and is very durable.

MAP PRINTING ESTIMATES

36"X48" Standard Paper Formats

1,000 prints – range: \$3,200 – 6,000
2,000 prints – range: \$3,600 – 4,800
3,000 prints – range: \$4,500 – 7,000
4,000 prints – range: \$4,500 – 5,500
5,000 prints – range: \$5,000 – 8,600

24"X36" Standard Paper Formats

1,000 prints – range: \$1,300 – 3,200
2,000 prints – range: \$1,500 – 3,500
3,000 prints – range: \$1,700 – 3,800
4,000 prints – range: \$1,900 – 4,000
5,000 prints – range: \$2,100 – 4,200

MAP PRINTING COMPANIES

Company Name	Phone Number	Email
ABC Blueprints	806-376-5671	
Awesome graphics	802-773-6143	
B&B Graphics	720-300-6266	bbrepro@qwest.net
Big Design	866-826-6377	
Colorado Printing	800-332-1069	
Dixonweb Printing	800-247-1711	rickross@sleepeck.com
Eastwood Printing	303-296-1905	marys@ewpp.com
Eight Days a Week Printing	303-545-9303	nancy@8days.com
EyeCandy Graphics	303-295-2270	jobs@eyecandygraphics.com
Flower City Printing	585-663-9000	
Fountainhead Graphics	877-546-5346	
Graphics Plus	719-548-8372	
Ideal Graphics	800-948-5533	ideal@idealgraphics.com
Impact	800-490-1705	
Magjak	914-939-8800	Bruce@magjak.com
MWM Dexter, Inc	800-354-9007	
Pikes Peak Litho	719-632-7276	
Power Graphics	877-389-8645	
Print Color	719-591-0575	
Print Made Easy	303-888-5609	
Printing Source Inc.	310-636-8132	
Proforma Single Source	303-791-8738	
Qube	303-605-6100	
Ryan Printing	585-392-6200	
Vision Graphics	970-491-2713	
Wandel Press	303-561-1100	