Best Practices for Custom Stencil Files

To deliver the best possible custom stencils for our customers, Newstripe needs your custom image or logo artwork in a vector-based file format. This will ensure a timely and successful production process.

Acceptable File Formats

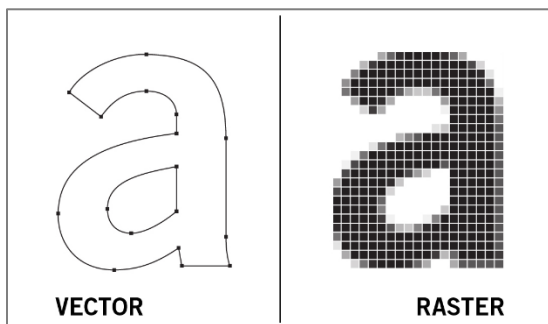The following vector-based file formats are acceptable for use in our custom stencil cutting software.

- **Vector PDF** (preferred)
- **EPS**
- **Adobe Illustrator (.ai)**
- **DXF Polyarc**

Add'l Notes
- *Artwork on files should be lines and arcs, not line segments.*
- *Artwork shapes should be unfilled.*

Vector vs. Pixel Based Formats

The vector-based image files listed above are needed because they can be resized in our stencil cutting software without diminishing image quality.

As you can see in the example on the left, the vector-based file is created with just a few data points and a mathematical formula determines the curves and lines. Whereas the pixel or raster-based file looks digitized and has blurry edges when resized.

Site Plans & Why They Don't Work for Custom Stencils

We frequently receive site plans from customers, and they often present issues in our custom stencil process for the following reasons.

- Site plans are usually not drawn to scale.
- Site plans are often drawn without stroke (width between two lines) and it is area that is cut out.
- Site plans usually have unclosed shapes containing line segments instead of joined lines and arcs. All shapes that are cut out of a custom stencil must be closed.
- Shapes shown in site plans are usually filled. All fills must be manually removed prior to being cut.
- Site plans contain a large amount of architectural information that does not relate to the custom stencil design and production process.