

Overview

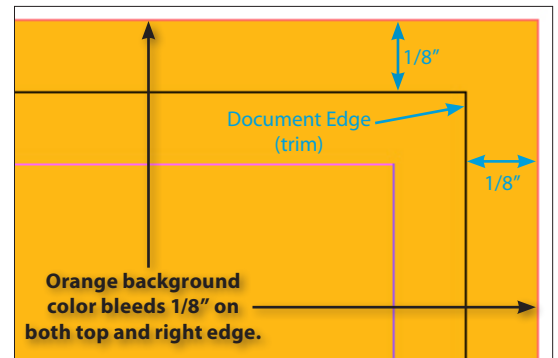
Due to normal and acceptable variations in the printing process, there are certain tolerances that should be considered when building the layouts for your magazine. Variations in folding and trimming can compound each other as the magazine goes through the manufacturing process. The more pages and sections contained in the magazine may further contribute to these variations. Mistakes with bleeds and safety zones when building page layouts is fairly common, but also easy to avoid. Following Century Publishing's recommendations for setting up proper bleeds and safety zones should eliminate the possibility of important items being trimmed off or items not bleeding properly in your final printed magazine.

Bleeds

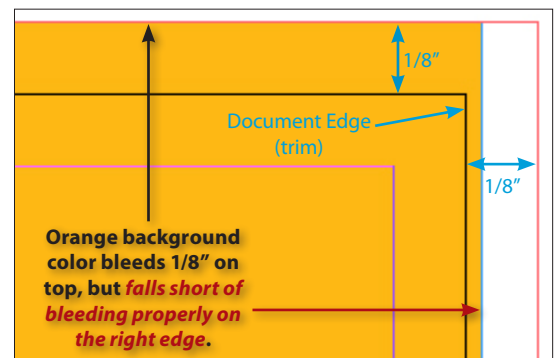
Any element on a layout that is intended to extend to the edge of the page is considered a bleed. This may be a photo, a background color, a line, or any other element. Any element that is intended to bleed must be built to extend 1/8" beyond the edge of the document. This gives sufficient image to be trimmed off, avoiding any gaps at the edge of the page of the final printed magazine.

The illustrations at right show a close up of the upper right corner of a layout with a color background intended to bleed. Notice on the lower illustration at right that while the background does go beyond the edge of the document, it does not bleed a full 1/8". In a perfect world this wouldn't be a problem, but realistically this could result in a background that doesn't quite bleed in the final printed magazine.

The illustrations at the bottom show how the final printed magazine will appear with proper bleeds (on bottom left) and what can happen when a bleed is short on the right edge (bottom right).



The bleed illustrated above is good



The bleed illustrated above is bad



The illustration above represents a page of the final trimmed magazine when bleeds are set up properly.



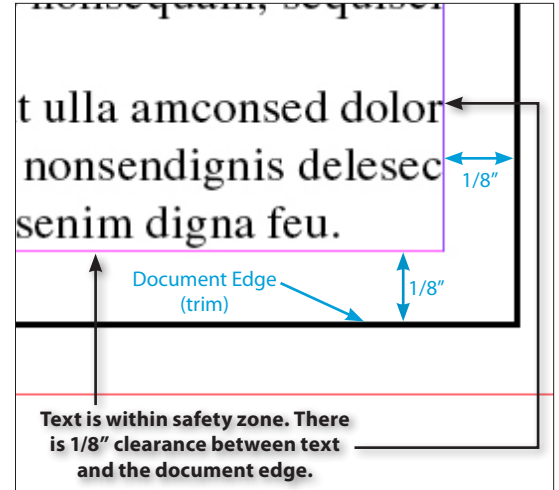
The illustration above represents what can happen when the bleed on the right is short. Notice the paper showing through on the right edge where the bleed is short.

Safety

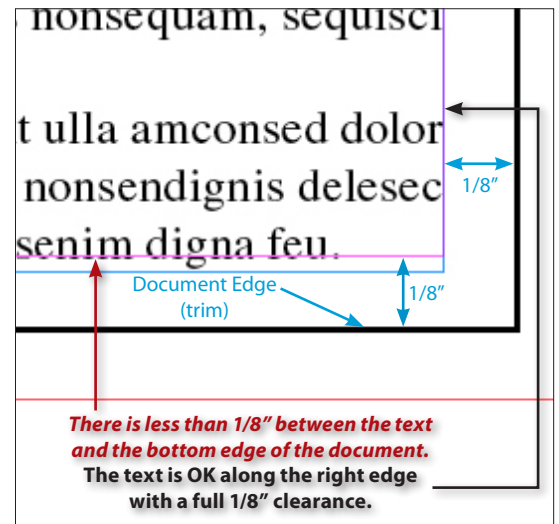
Safety refers to a specific area or guides on a page layout that represent the “safe” area of the page where elements are far enough away from the edge of the document so as not to be trimmed off in the final printed product. This safety zone is 1/8” inside the final trim size of the magazine. Any element on the page that is closer than 1/8” from any edge of the document is considered too close to trim.

The illustrations on the right show examples of text in relation to the safety zone. In the upper example at right, the text all falls properly within the safety zone with 1/8” clearance between the right and bottom edge of the document. In the lower example at right, the text is hanging too low at the bottom edge and is in danger of being trimmed off.

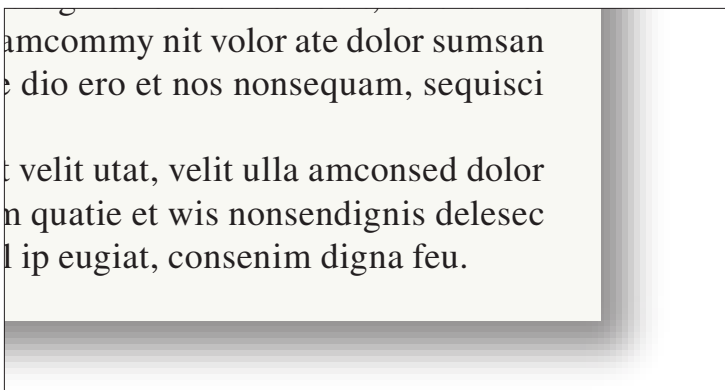
The illustrations at the bottom represent the effects of these text examples in the final printed magazine.



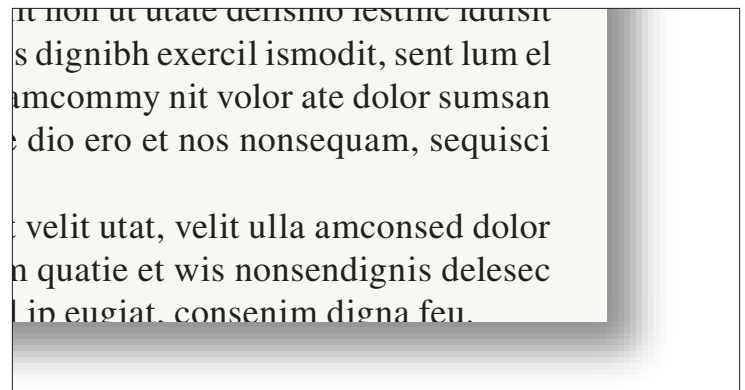
The text illustrated above is good



The text illustrated above is bad



The illustration above represents how the final printed magazine will look with text that was within the safety zone.



The illustration above represents how the final printed magazine may look with text that fell outside of the safety zone on the bottom edge.