

Customer Solutions



HAGADONE
PRINTING COMPANY

Not Just Ink On Paper.

274 Pu'uhale Road, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819

main (808) 847-5310

fax (808) 841-0094

toll free (800) 491-4888

www.hagadoneprinting.com

Shrinking & Expanding Paper

PRE-PRESS PRESS ▶ POST-PRESS MAILING SPECIALTY

Like hairlines and waistlines, the paper of printed material can shrink and expand, causing unwanted results. Yes, it's true! The paper used for the text of a booklet can expand beyond the size of the cover after the job has been bound. The result is a cover that appears to have been short-trimmed.

How does this happen? Whenever a job is run on a heatset web press, the extreme heat (270-300 degrees) takes all the moisture out of the paper, causing it to shrink. The high temperature is necessary to dry the ink since the web press runs at such a high speed.

When the text pages are bound with the cover the booklet is perfectly square, all sides are even. But moisture in the air is absorbed back into the text paper and they can expand beyond the cover by as much as 1/16 of an inch.

This problem is a well-documented occurrence in the printing industry and many factors can come into play such as the type of stock, air temperature, humidity, etc. Also, it is more noticeable when the cover signature has been run on a sheetfed press. And perfect bound books are more obvious than saddlestitched booklets.

No Easy Solutions for Thirsty Paper

Possible solutions are costly and time consuming. We can re-trim the books 4 to 5 days after binding. Or we can let the signatures sit for a week to let the moisture back into the paper before binding. This might prove ineffective since the signatures are strapped and bundled tightly which restricts moisture from fully seeping back into the paper. Picture an undersized belt around an oversized stomach. Once the straps are removed, expansion takes place.

So like the beer drinker whose belly has expanded beyond his once perfect-fitting pants, text paper can "outgrow" its cover. We will continue to seek solutions but I hope everyone now understands the problem.