COURIER GRAPHICS
CORPORATION

WEB GROWTH FACT SHEET

YOUR PROJECT MAY BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO WEB GROWTH.

WEB GROWTH is the phenomenon when a final bound book looks like the covers are cut too short.

How Web Growth Happens

Web growth occurs because of moisture content difference between text and cover paper stock.

As text is run on the web press, moisture is removed from the paper by oven temperatures of up to 300 degrees. The paper physically shrinks with the removal of this moisture.

Sheetfed covers are not subjected to web oven temperatures and therefore retain more moisture.

Web-printed text and sheetfed-printed covers are then bound together and trimmed as one piece to provide a flush-finished book. As books are exposed to moisture in the air, web paper can physically expand and appear to "grow," just as a sponge does in dishwater. This can happen within hours, days, or even weeks to create the appearance of the cover being cut too short.

There are ways to avoid or minimize this issue. See reverse side for tricks and tips and discuss any questions with your account executive.

COURIER GRAPHICS
CORPORATION

WEB GROWTH FACT SHEET

TIPS AND TRICKS

HOW TO PREVENT WEB GROWTH

The best way to prevent text growth is not to mix sheetfed-printed and web-printed stocks. This is often not cost-efffective and may not be feasible for all projects due to web press limitations.

WAYS TO MINIMIZE WEB GROWTH

ACCLIMATION - Growth can be minimized by allowing folded signatures to acclimate for days or weeks prior to binding. Results may vary with ambient humidity and cannot be guaranteed over usable life of the printed book.

BY DESIGN - Web growth can be disguised by using the same shade or color on both the front cover and page one of the book. (ie: if you have a dark front cover, design page one of the book to match). Please ask your account executive for samples or directions on how to achieve this effect.

IS WEB GROWTH ACCEPTABLE?

Web growth is a standard occurrence for sheetfed covers and web-printed text. Because moisture absorption by stock can vary, there is no official standard for amount of acceptable or expected growth. Web growth is typically unnoticed by the end user or consumer and is not considered a defect or flaw.