

Glue Traps

Glue Traps: What are they? Why are they important?

A Glue Trap is the extra space on the cover of a book that prevents the glue from seeping out of the head and of the foot of the book immediately after the cover has been attached.

Why is this important?

- If glue flows from the cover the potential exists for the glue to 'string' onto the machine. If this happens the glue may be transferred to another book.
- If a book has glue on it and is put into a box, the glue might adhere to the top and the bottom of the next book, causing the covers to stick together.
- When using PUR glue, in some cases, the glue will eat away at the ink and a white color will appear wherever the glue is on the cover or the body of the book.
- If the glue gets onto the machine, and then dries, the glue hardens and may scratch the covers of future books.

How does a glue trap work?

- After the cover has been applied to the body of the book, the nipping (spine forming) station presses the book from the bottom (binding side) and then from both sides, squeezing the book. This is when the glue squeezes out of the head and the foot onto the cover.
- The extra 1/8" head and 1/8" foot trims on the cover, in addition to the standard 1/8" trim margin, allows for the glue to be pushed out onto the extra cover stock and not onto the books or the machine.
- The cover of an 8 1/2" x 11" book should be 17 1/2" x 11 1/2" plus the thickness of the spine.

