

## Binding Methods Defined

**Case Binding:** Standard binding used for hardcover books. Several different types to choose from, but typically involves inside pages being sewn together in sections. These are then glued to end papers which are glued to cover's spine.

**Comb Binding:** Comb Binding, also known as Cerlox binding or Surelox binding, makes use of a cylindrical plastic shape that has multiple curved tines along its length. This rigid plastic shape forms the book's spine and would resemble a hair comb if it were not formed into a cylinder, hence the name Comb Binding. Each tine or "tooth" along the comb binding element is pre-formed into a closed ring shape. Each ring-shaped tine contains tension. When these tines are spread apart and then released, the tension closes them back into a circular shape. The comb binding method produces a durable and professional-looking document. To bind a book with this method, the curved tines are spread open and inserted through rectangular slots punched along the spinal edge of the book's cover and pages. When the tension in the tines is released, the spine closes back into its original shape and secures the covers and pages as a unit yet allows them to turn freely.

**Loop Stitching:** Comparable to saddle stitching, but with a different effect. Loops are created with wire along the external spine in order to insert and secure the document into a 3-ring binder. Great option for information installments that can be added to larger collection.

**Perfect Binding:** Sections of folded pages (signatures) have their spines trimmed off and roughed up to improve bonding with glue. All sections are collated and glued to its wrap-around cover. Cover is typically scored on back and front, for ease of opening and less stress on spine. The other three sides of the book are then trimmed as needed to give them clean "perfect" edges.

**Saddle Stitching:** In the printing industry, Saddle Stitching refers to a very popular book binding method in which folded sheets are gathered together one inside the other and then stapled through the fold line with wire staples. The staples pass through the folded crease from the outside and are clinched between the centermost pages. Two staples are commonly used but larger books may require more staples along the spine.

**Screw Bound:** In screw, stud or post binding, first holes are drilled through the complete document. Then a barrel post is inserted through the holes and a cap screw is added to the post to hold everything together. Frequently used for swatch books.

**Spiral Binding:** Utilizes a smooth round coil to hold pages together. Allows book to lie flat when open or pages can be turned all the way around to the back if desired.

Wire is threaded through punched holes and then ends are crimped to prevent wire slipping off. Spirals or coils are available in variety of colors.

**Tape Binding:** This method involves an adhesive tape being wrapped around the spine to hold the covers and inside pages in place. Usually pages need to be stitched together prior to affixing the tape to reinforce and provide added strength.

**Wire-O Binding:** uses formed wire that threads through punched holes. This allows books to lay flat when open. Wire loops are available in variety of colors to coordinate with cover color. A durable option for a wide variety of project types.