

What is the process of branding a product?

A brand must be clear, specific, and unique to your product. For example, the Wheaties brand differentiates the cereal from its competition due to its association with health and “sports excellence.” To achieve the same successes with your products, you need to execute the following steps to establish an effective brand:

- **Find a name.** Choose an appropriate name that is easily remembered and specific to the product. The name should be restricted to three words or less - anything longer is difficult for customers to recall. This process may require legal screening to guarantee availability of the name and customer input to assess attractiveness and appropriateness of the name.
- **Develop a slogan.** The selected slogan needs to be two to three words, catchy, and easily remembered. To generate slogan ideas, you must stay focused on the buyer. Why should they buy the product? What will they like about the brand? How does competition compare? The slogan should take into account answers to these questions.
- **Create an appropriate symbol or logo.** It can be as simple as a geometric shape or as elaborate as a silhouette of a person or object. Use the name, slogan and symbol on every piece of correspondence related to the product e-mails, invoices, letterhead, business cards, advertisements and promotions, etc. This system will eliminate inefficiencies in creative and production fees and extend the branding process throughout everything you do. In a sense, it will prevent “recreating the wheel” with each new media effort.

What are the challenges of building a brand?

The greatest challenge faced when developing and building a brand is creating just the right name, slogan and symbol for the product. It will take a great deal of time and consideration! A thorough thought process and feedback from others will help to get past this obstacle.

It is often difficult to achieve initial customer recognition of a new product, regardless of branding. However, branded items are more recognizable and memorable. Effective advertising before and after the sale is key to overcoming this obstacle. Advertising and promotion before the sale are essential to obtain first purchases and follow-up advertisements after the sale will promote customer satisfaction and repeat purchases.

Repeat purchases are one of the primary objectives in brand development. Repeat purchases are critical to your businesses long-term success and contribute to brand loyalty, which will be discussed in the final file of this series.