



## TeX Environment Variables

Kpathsea defines a sequence of environment variables to search for each file type it supports. This makes it easy for different programs to check the same environment variables, in the same order.

The following section describes the environment variables searched for each file type in the order they are searched (and a brief description of the file type). That is, only if the first variable is unset is the second variable checked, and so on. If none are set, various other things are checked.

### Environment Variables by File Type

.base	(Metafont memory dump) <b>MFBASES</b>
.bib	(BibTeX bibliography source) <b>BIBINPUTS</b>
.bst	(BibTeX style file) <b>BSTINPUTS, TEXINPUTS</b>
.cnf	(Kpathsea runtime configuration files) <b>TEXMFCNF</b>
.eps	(Encapsulated PostScript figures) <b>TEXPICTS, TEXINPUTS</b>
.fmt	(TeX memory dump) <b>TEXFORMATS</b>
gf	(generic font bitmap) <b>PROGRAMFONTS,</b> <b>GFFONTS, GLYPHFONTS, TEXFONTS</b>
.mf	(Metafont source) <b>MFINPUTS</b>
mf.pool	(Metafont program strings) <b>MFPOOL</b>
.pict	(Other kinds of figures) Same as .eps.
pk	(packed bitmap font) <b>PROGRAMFONTS,</b> <b>PKFONTS, TEXPKS, GLYPHFONTS,</b> <b>TEXFONTS</b>
.tex	(TeX source) <b>TEXINPUTS</b>

tex.pool	(TeX program strings) <b>TEXPOOL</b>
.tfm	(TeX font metrics) <b>TFMFONTS, TEXFONTS</b>
.vfm	(virtual font) <b>VFFONTS, TEXFONTS</b>

For the font variables, the intent is that:

- **TEXFONTS** is the default for everything.
- **GLYPHFONTS** is the default for bitmap (or, more precisely, non-metric) files.
- Each format has its own variable.
- Each program can and should have its own font override path as well; e.g., **DVIPSFONTS** for Dvipsk. Again, this is for bitmaps, not metrics.

If these environment variables are set, the corresponding `texmf.cnf` definition won't be looked at (unless, as usual, the environment variable has an extra ':'). See the document on TeX environment variable expansion for more details, located at <http://www.usc.edu/isd/doc/desktoppub/latex/env-expand.pdf>.

### Getting Help

If you have any questions about the variables described in this document, you may call the Customer Support Center at (213) 740-5555 or e-mail [consult@usc.edu](mailto:consult@usc.edu).