

Understanding the Options menu settings for menu widgets

It's important to understand the menu widget options, including why to choose a particular setting based on its effect. The menu widget options are

- **Menu Type:** By default, child pages don't appear in the menu bar. For certain sites you may leave the Menu Type at the default Top Level Pages. That way, you can create links to child pages or even create another menu bar on the page, maybe in a sidebar that links to the child pages. This is one of those navigation and design issues that you need to consider.

Choosing All Pages includes child pages of any of the top-level pages. If you do this, they appear as a submenu on the page, below the PRODUCTS menu item. Also notice the little black arrow that appears to the right of the PRODUCTS menu item.

A third option for the Menu Type is Manual. If you wish to manually add items to a menu, for instance to create links for e-mail, contact, or other, that may not appear in the site map, you can choose Manual and enter them manually. This also requires that you link each menu item manually. You will learn more about linking items in Lesson 7, "Working with Links and Buttons."

- **Direction:** You can choose either horizontal or vertical to change the orientation of the menu if you dragged the wrong orientation menu onto the page from Widgets Library panel.
- **Edit Together:** By deselecting this option, you can edit the appearance of each menu item separately.
- **Item Size:** By default, the Horizontal menu is set to Fit Width, which makes each menu item a different width. Each menu item is a little wider than the text in it. By choosing Uniform Width, you make each menu item the same width. You can choose either option, depending on the design of your page. If you choose Uniform Width, you could add a single background image to one menu item while Edit Together is enabled, and that same image will fit the dimensions of all buttons. Otherwise, you could set a tiling background image if Fit Width is enabled, to compensate for the varying sizes of the menu items.
- **Show Left Icon:** A small, gray box appears to the left of the text in each menu item with this option selected. You can place the same or different images in those gray boxes by choosing File > Place, selecting the image, then clicking on one of the gray icon boxes to insert the image. An example may be an icon that represents each menu item, like a map icon for the KART MAP page.
- **Show Label:** Deselecting this option hides the text in each menu item. In the section on styling the menu (page 71), you will learn that you can add a background image to menu items. You can create that background image and add its text in a program like Photoshop, so the text in the menu bar wouldn't be necessary.
- **Show Right Icon:** As with the Left Icon option, you can add a picture to the right side of the menu items or even choose Submenus Only to add images to the right side of only the child pages.
- **Parts Positioning:** This option lets you position (align) the content within each menu item, depending on the orientation of the menu.