PHOTOSHOP: 3.4 REMOVE ANYTHING FROM PHOTO

Scratches, dust, and other imperfections

If your lens has dust or scratches on it, it will appear in the final photo. Dust and scratches may also be visible in old printed photos that have gone through wear and tear. This is how you can remove these imperfections. This task will require the Spot Healing Brush. See 1.1 INTERFACE AND TOOLS for an introduction to this feature.

1. Duplicate Background Layers.

   It is always good practice to never edit your Background photo directly. Either duplicate it or add a layer so that you can always retrieve the original photo without any problems.

   To duplicate the Background photo, right click and select “Duplicate Layer...”

2. Spot Healing Brush Tool

   Next, zoom into your photo where you find the spots of dust and other particles. Use the Spot Healing Brush, found in the Toolbar across the left side of screen with a Band-Aid as its icon, to remove these spots.

   Make sure that your Spot Healing Brush is set to Content-Aware mode in the Options Bar across the top for a smart blend. You can use the Options Bar to adjust the size and the hardness of the brush. Generally, you want your brush to be just slightly larger than your spot, and the hardness to be around 50%.

   ![Spot Healing Brush Options Bar](image)

   You can also adjust the size and hardness with your keyboard. Hold Command + Alt and drag your brush left or right to make the brush smaller or bigger. Drag it up and down to change its hardness.

   To remove lines and scratches from your image, you want to make the brush the width of the line. Click and hold the beginning of the line, then hold Shift on your keyboard and select the end of the line.
Removing Objects From a Patterned Background

Sometimes, there are distracting elements in your photograph that ruin the photo. This is how you remove objects from standard backgrounds like brick walls, grass, and other backgrounds that repeat a pattern for the most part. This task will require the Marque Tool and the Healing Brush Tool. See 1.1 INTERFACE AND TOOLS for an introduction to these features.

1. Duplicate Background Layer

   It is always good practice to never edit your Background photo directly. Either duplicate it or add a layer so that you can always retrieve the original photo without any problems.

   To duplicate the Background photo, right click and select “Duplicate Layer…”

2. Make Selection

   Next, you want to select the element you want to remove. You can use a regular rectangle selection tool found in the Toolbar across the left side of the screen. Select the area with the object. In the Options Bar above, change the Feather to .01 px.

3. Fill

   Next, you want to Content-Aware Fill. To do this, go to Edit (in your Menu Bar) > Fill... A window will pop up, make sure Content-Aware is selected and click “OK”.
4. **Fix Imperfections**

Sometimes, it will not create a very natural fill. So you can repeat this process with the smaller elements in the area. For touch ups, use the Healing Brush tool to clone stamp areas of your photo onto others.

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**Removing Objects From Irregular Backgrounds**

Most backgrounds will not have a pattern and will require more work to remove an object from the photo. This task will require the Pen Tool, the Healing Brush Tool, the Brush Tool, and the creation of new layers. See 1.1 INTERFACE AND TOOLS for an introduction to these features.

1. **Select Layer (optional)**

For this tutorial, you will create several layers for your edit. First start out by creating a new layer by clicking on the New Layer button across the bottom of the Layers Panel.

After selecting your new layer, zoom into the object you want to remove and draw a selection around it as precise as possible using the selection tool. However, it is better to be more outside of the object then inside. You can choose between Marque Tools, Lasso Tools, and Pen Tools. It is suggested that you use the Pen Tool to make precise lines and curves.
This step is optional because it provides a more precise edit by allowing you to only clone and paint in the selected area, but if your photo is simple enough to do so without a selection, then this step can be skipped. If you are not making a selection, duplicate the background layer and edit on that.

2. **Healing Brush**

To remove an object from an irregular background, you will have to use your imagination on what is behind the object or person, and recreate it. You can start recreating as much information as possible by using the Healing Brush.

You should start by recreating the easiest part of the photo. In this example seen on the right, you can start with the wall behind the man pushing his bike.

Select the Healing Brush, and start off by adjusting the size of your brush using the Options Bar. Hold Option on your keyboard and click on the area that you would like to sample. Hover over the part of the object you are removing that is over the wall to preview it. If you like what you see, click and drag to clone over the object or person. If it is set to Normal Mode, it will likely blur. If you would like to remove the blur, drop down the Mode box in the Options Bar and select Replace. Try sampling other parts to find the most natural looking area to take from.

Continue to do this to whatever you can using information already available in the photo.
3. Paint

In this example and in many other photos that you will work with, the Healing Brush can do the whole job because all the information that is missing, is available somewhere else. However, if you cannot clone a sample area from anywhere else, you will have to use the Paint Tool and your imagination and do your best to paint the area that you don’t have information for using your best guess. This is best done when the area is in the background and is out of focus.

You should first start by sampling colors and painting the basic colors to the area without worrying about details or texture.

Then, to add texture, you can duplicate another layer, clone a different area from the image with texture, then change the blend mode of that layer to Soft Light and a lower Opacity, or play around to get the best look possible. Use the mask to clean it up (see 3.2 LAYER MASKS for more info on how to mask a layer).