

## Editing Your Images in Photoshop: Editing Order

For maximum flexibility and to preserve image quality, you'll usually want to perform your edits in a particular order. There are some edits that you need to get out of the way early, such as cropping and spot removal, while many of the operations in the middle of your editing cycle can be performed in any order.

- 1. Geometric corrections.** Cropping, straightening, perspective distortion.
- 2. Dust and spot removal.** Fix sensor dust issues, or lens flare troubles.
- 3. Tonal adjustment.** Good contrast is essential to a good image, so your first major adjustment after cropping and spotting will be to correct the tone of the image. Adjust the black-and-white values in the image. Often, this will fix color problems as well.
- 4. Color correction.** Color adjustments can include everything from changes in saturation to removing a color cast to radically altering a particular color in the image.
- 5. Grayscale conversion.** If you ultimately plan to convert your image to grayscale, that adjustment will happen during your tone correction stage.
- 6. Retouching.** Remove unwanted parts of the image, etc.
- 7. Additional color and tonal corrections, special effects, compositing.**
- 8. Noise reduction.**
- 9. Sizing, sharpening, and output.** Your very last step is to resize and sharpen your image in preparation for output.