

To color manage your document for output on a desktop printer:

Using a color-managed workflow, you can control the appearance of colors in your document so they remain the same or similar; as you captured with your camera – you see on your computer monitor – and when the document is printed on a desktop printer.

Set up your devices for color management

Calibrate your monitor and create a profile for it. Use Adobe Gamma (Windows), Monitor Calibrator (Mac OS) or, for more precise calibration, use third-party software and hardware. If profiles came with your printer, make sure they're installed on your computer. For important color work, it's highly recommended that you create custom profiles for each type of paper that you use with the printer.

Set up the Photoshop color management system

Choose **Edit > Color Settings** to specify the color management settings. You can either choose a preset from the Settings menu in the Color Settings dialog box or customize the settings. Most photographers agree that using the *North American Prepress 2* default settings, which specifies Adobe RGB (1998) as the RGB working space is a safe bet, or at least a good starting point if you wish to further customize your settings. Adobe RGB (1998) is a large enough *color space* to encompass the colors used in printing. In general, it's not advised to use sRGB as the working space, since it's a smaller *color space* and may not contain important colors that can be printed.

Edit your image in Photoshop

Depending on the color management policy you choose, you will be editing the image in either the current RGB working space or in the working space profile embedded in the document. The choice of whether to convert a document to the RGB working space or preserve its embedded profile is a personal decision. For instance, if you feel that Adobe RGB is a suitable working space for all images that you print (as many photographers do), you might consider choosing Adobe RGB as your RGB working space, and then choose the *Convert to Working Space* policy and always work in Adobe RGB.

(Optional) Soft proof your image

Most often used by professionals for pre-press. If you want to see a simulation on your monitor of your final printed image, use the **View > Proof Setup** command and choose the printer's profile. Your monitor will display the image in the color space of your desktop printer. For the most accurate soft proof, choose a profile for the specific paper you're printing on. The profiles referenced here were either included with your printer software, downloaded from the printer manufacturer's web site, or are profiles which you personally created with a third party hardware-software system.

Print

Choose **File > Print** -- In the top right area under **Color Management** make sure you select **Photoshop Manages Color**. In this mode Photoshop does all the color conversion. If you choose this option, it is very important that you turn off color management in your printer dialog box prior to printing.

After you choose print, you must then select options in your printer driver dialog box:

- **Set printer options** -- Depends upon the printer drivers installed on your computer.
 - On Windows, click the Properties button to access the printer driver options.
 - On Mac OS, use the drop-down menu (that starts with "copies and pages") to access the printer driver options.
 - Set the print settings for the **type of paper** and **printer output resolution (dpi)**.
 - **If Photoshop is handling the color adjustment** or color management options during printing, **turn off all printer driver color adjustment options** under Color Management.
 - **If Photoshop is not handling color management**, that is; **you have not set an ICC profile in Photoshop** for your printer and paper. Now you should specify the color management settings to let your printer driver handle the color management during printing. **It's important not to color manage in both Photoshop and the printer driver simultaneously during printing.** This results in unpredictable color.

Are you working on a Mac? Another approach is to [Try ColorSync](#) Adapted from the Producing Consistent Color area of Adobe Photoshop help