When you start Photoshop, the Tools panel appears at the left of the screen. Some tools in the Tools panel have options that appear in the context-sensitive options bar.

You can expand some tools to show hidden tools beneath them. A small triangle at the lower right of the tool icon signals the presence of hidden tools.

You can view information about any tool by positioning the pointer over it. The name of the tool appears in a tool tip below the pointer.

### Tool galleries

#### Selection tools gallery

- **The marquee tools** make rectangular, elliptical, single row, and single column selections.
- **The Move tool** moves selections, layers, and guides.
- **The lasso tools** make freehand, polygonal (straight-edged), and magnetic (snap-to) selections.
- **The Quick Selection tool** lets you quickly “paint” a selection using an adjustable round brush tip.
- **The Magic Wand tool** selects similarly colored areas.

#### Crop and slice tools gallery

- **The Crop tool** trims images.
- **The Slice tool** creates slices.
- **The Slice Select tool** selects slices.
The Spot Healing Brush tool removes blemishes and objects.

The Healing Brush tool paints with a sample or pattern to repair imperfections in an image.

The Patch tool repairs imperfections in a selected area of an image using a sample or pattern.

The Red Eye tool removes the red reflection caused by a flash.

The Clone Stamp tool paints with a sample of an image.

The Pattern Stamp tool paints with part of an image as a pattern.

The Eraser tool erases pixels and restores parts of an image to a previously saved state.

The Background Eraser tool erases areas to transparency by dragging.

The Magic Eraser tool erases solid-colored areas to transparency with a single click.

The Blur tool blurs hard edges in an image.

The Sharpen tool sharpens soft edges in an image.

The Smudge tool smudges data in an image.

The Dodge tool lightens areas in an image.

The Burn tool darkens areas in an image.

The Sponge tool changes the color saturation of an area.
**Painting tools gallery**

- **The Brush tool** paints brush strokes.
- **The Pencil tool** paints hard-edged strokes.
- **The Color Replacement tool** replaces a selected color with a new color.
- **The Mixer Brush tool** Simulates realistic painting techniques such as blending canvas colors and varying paint wetness.
- **The History Brush tool** paints a copy of the selected state or snapshot into the current image window.
- **The Art History brush tool** paints with stylized strokes that simulate the look of different paint styles, using a selected state or snapshot.
- **The gradient tools** create straight-line, radial, angle, reflected, and diamond blends between colors.
- **The Paint Bucket tool** fills similarly colored areas with the foreground color.

**Drawing and type tools gallery**

- **The path selection tools** make shape or segment selections showing anchor points, direction lines, and direction points.
- **The type tools** create type on an image.
- **The type mask tools** create a selection in the shape of type.
- **The pen tools** let you draw smooth-edged paths.
- **The shape tools and Line tool** draw shapes and lines in a normal layer or a shape layer.
- **The Custom Shape tool** makes customized shapes selected from a custom shape list.

**Navigation, notes, and measuring tools gallery**

- **The Hand tool** moves an image within its window.
- **The Rotate View tool** non-destructively rotates the canvas.
- **The Zoom tool** magnifies and reduces the view of an image.
- **The Note tool** makes notes that can be attached to an image.
The 3D Object Rotate tool rotates the object around its x-axis.

The 3D Object Roll tool rotates the object around its z-axis.

The 3D Object Pan tool pans the object in the x or y direction.

The 3D Object Slide tool moves the object laterally when you drag horizontally, or forward and back when you drag vertically.

The 3D Object Scale tool scales the object larger or smaller.

The 3D Rotate Camera tool orbits the camera in the x or y direction.

The 3D Roll Camera tool rotates the camera around the z-axis.

The 3D Pan Camera tool pans the camera in the x or y direction.

The 3D Walk Camera tool moves laterally when you drag horizontally, or forward and back when you drag vertically.

The 3D Zoom Camera tool changes the field of view closer or farther away.

Selecting and displaying tools

Select a tool

- Do one of the following:
  - Click a tool in the Tools panel. If there is a small triangle at a tool's lower right corner, hold down the mouse button to view the hidden tools. Then click the tool you want to select.
  - Press the tool’s keyboard shortcut. The keyboard shortcut is displayed in its tool tip. For example, you can select the Move tool by pressing the V key.

Tip: Pressing and holding a keyboard shortcut key lets you temporarily switch to a tool. When you let go of the shortcut key, Photoshop returns to the tool you were using before the temporary switch.
Cycle through hidden tools
By default, you cycle through a set of hidden tools by holding down Shift and repeatedly pressing a tool shortcut key. If you prefer to cycle through tools without holding down Shift, you can disable this preference.

1. Choose Edit > Preferences > General (Windows) or Photoshop > Preferences > General (Mac OS).
2. Deselect Use Shift Key For Tool Switch.

Change tool pointers
Each default pointer has a different hotspot, where an effect or action in the image begins. With most tools, you can switch to precise cursors, which appear as cross hairs centered around the hotspot.

In most cases, the pointer for a tool is the same as the icon for that tool; you see that pointer when you select the tool. The default pointer for the marquee tools is the cross-hair pointer †; for the text tool, the default pointer is the I-beam I; and for the painting tools the default pointer is the Brush Size icon.

1. Choose Edit > Preferences > Cursors (Windows) or choose Photoshop > Preferences > Cursors (Mac OS).
2. Choose tool pointer settings under Painting Cursors or Other Cursors:
   - **Standard** Displays pointers as tool icons.
   - **Precise** Displays pointers as cross hairs.
   - **Normal Brush Tip** The pointer outline corresponds to approximately 50% of the area that the tool will affect. This option shows the pixels that would be most visibly affected.
   - **Full Size Brush Tip** The pointer outline corresponds to nearly 100% of the area that the tool will affect, or nearly all the pixels that would be affected.
   - **Show Crosshair In Brush Tip** Displays cross hairs in the center of the brush shape.
   - **Show Only Crosshair While Painting** Improves performance with large brushes.

3. Click OK.

The Painting Cursors options control the pointers for the following tools:
Eraser, Pencil, Paintbrush, Healing Brush, Rubber Stamp, Pattern Stamp, Quick Selection, Smudge, Blur, Sharpen, Dodge, Burn, and Sponge tools

The Other Cursors options control the pointers for the following tools:
Marquee, Lasso, Polygonal Lasso, Magic Wand, Crop, Slice, Patch, Eyedropper, Pen, Gradient, Line, Paint Bucket, Magnetic Lasso, Magnetic Pen, Freeform Pen, Measure, and Color Sampler tools

To toggle between standard and precise cursors in some tool pointers, press Caps Lock.

Visually resize or change hardness of painting cursors
You can resize or change the hardness of a painting cursor by dragging in the image. As you drag, the painting cursor previews your changes. (Previews require OpenGL. See GPU, OpenGL support.

- To resize a cursor, press Alt + right-click (Windows) or Control + Option (Mac OS), and drag left or right. To change hardness, drag up or down.

Using the options bar
The options bar appears below the menu bar at the top of the workspace. The options bar is context sensitive—it changes as you select different tools. Some settings in the options bar (such as painting modes and opacity) are common to several tools, and some are specific to one tool.

You can move the options bar in the workspace by using the gripper bar, and you can dock it at the top or bottom of the screen. Tool tips appear when you position the pointer over a tool. To show or hide the options bar, choose Window > Options.

To return tools to their default settings, right-click (Windows) or Control-click (Mac OS) the tool icon in the options bar, and then choose Reset Tool or Reset All Tools from the context menu.

For more information on setting options for a specific tool, search for the tool’s name in Photoshop Help.
Tool presets

Tool presets let you save and reuse tool settings. You can load, edit, and create libraries of tool presets using the Tool Preset picker in the options bar, the Tool Presets panel, and the Preset Manager.

To choose a tool preset, click the Tool Preset picker in the options bar, and select a preset from the pop-up panel. You can also choose Window > Tool Presets and select a preset in the Tools Presets panel.

 Viewing the Tool Preset picker

A. Click the Tool Preset picker in the options bar to show the Tool Preset pop-up panel. B. Select a preset to change the tool’s options to the preset, which applies each time you select the tool until you choose Reset Tool from the panel menu. C. Deselect to show all tool presets; select to show presets for only the tool selected in the toolbox.

Create a tool preset

1. Choose a tool, and set the options you want to save as a tool preset in the options bar.
2. Do one of the following:
   • Click the Tool Preset button next to the tool at the left of the options bar.
   • Choose Window > Tool Presets to display the Tool Presets panel.
3. Do one of the following:
   • Click the Create New Tool Preset button.
   • Choose New Tool Preset from the panel menu.
4. Enter a name for the tool preset, and click OK.

Change the list of tool presets

- Click the triangle to open the Tool Presets pop-up panel menu and choose one of the following:
  
  Show All Tool Presets  Shows all loaded presets.

  Sort By Tool  Sorts the presets by tool.

  Show Current Tool Presets  Shows only the loaded presets for the active tool. You can also select the Current Tool Only option in the Tool Presets pop-up panel.

  Text Only, Small List, or Large List  Determines how presets are displayed in the pop-up panel.

Note: To create, load, and manage libraries of tool presets, see Work with the Preset Manager.