

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP Elements TECHNIQUES

Dealing with Bright White Situations

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How to deal with areas of your photos where things are a little too bright.

1. Open up an image that has some bright, white or blown-out areas you'd like to try and fix. (Examples: Blown-out skies, white clothing or excessively bright backgrounds/foregrounds).
2. For the first approach, duplicate the background layer (**PC: Control+J**, **Mac: Command+J**).
3. Go to the **Enhance** menu, than to **Adjust Lighting** and select **Shadows/Highlights**.
4. Inside the Shadows/Highlights dialog box, push the Lighten Shadows slider and the Midtone Contrast slider to 0 percent. Move the **Darken Highlights** slider to the right until you're happy. Some of the areas of the photo that you do not want to darken will be effected, but you'll edit that

out later. (Helpful Hint: You can overdo it just a bit and change the opacity of this layer later.)

5. Select the **Eraser** tool. Start to erase away the areas that you would like to return to their original state, leaving the newly darkened highlights alone. You can adjust the opacity of this layer if the highlights are now too dark.
6. For the second approach, start with your original image again. Duplicate the background layer.
7. Change the blend mode of the duplicate layer to **Multiply**.
8. Select the **Eraser** tool. Start to erase away at the areas that you would like to remain bright, just like in the previous approach.
9. Both of these approaches work well with different types of images. Try taking the same image and trying both to see which you prefer.