

File formats in Photoshop

	data type					advantages	disadvantages	uses	3-ltr. extension
	RGB	CMYK	Indexed	RGB	Grayscale				
EPS	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	clipping paths, custom screens, etc.	requires a Postscript printer	print	eps
PhotoShop	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	saves all photoshop features i.e. layers, etc.	import difficulties -- not understood by many programs; big files	for further editing in Photoshop	psd
JPEG	yes	yes	NO	yes	NO	highly compressed file size	"lossy" compression, possible import difficulties; no layers	web, on-screen presentations, some print	jpg
TIFF	yes	yes*	yes	yes	yes	trouble-free, near universally understood format - all platforms	large file sizes	print	tif
GIF	NO	NO	yes	yes	yes	compact files, good for screen use, animation	limited to 256 colors or grays, only fair in print	web, on-screen presentations	gif
PNG	yes	NO	yes	yes	yes	better transparency than GIF, lossless compression	not supported for commercial printing, used mostly for web and screen	web	png

Photoshop can save to other file formats, but the formats listed above are the most widespread. Avoid the lesser used formats (i.e. PICT, BMP, etc.) unless you have a good reason to use them.

* CMYK is preferred mode for professional printing on press. RGB mode can cause problems with imagesetters. Save as a pre-separated DCS EPS file when you want Photoshop-made separations to remain untouched by a DTP program.