

How to make a watermark/brush in PS/Elements

Step 1: CREATE A BLANK IMAGE FILE

In top menu bar: File ► New: Set Size (3x1" is a good place to start or dimensions that best fit; this can be adjusted later), set background to white or transparent, set resolution to 300, and color to black

Step 2: CREATE YOUR TEXT

In tools bar select the **Text Tool**, click on the canvas and this will create a new layer in your document. Next, in the text menu bar (at the top), choose the font, font size (good place to start is 18 or 24 pt), choose alignment (I usually choose center), set text color to black. These settings can all be adjusted again later.

Tip: Quick way to set your text color is to set your foreground/background color to black (foreground)/white (background) which is at the bottom of the tools menu.

Type in text. Quick way to see how text will look in different fonts: Highlight text (double click "T" in corresponding layer) in the layer menu. Next, highlight/activate the font in the fonts menu (in top menu bar) and then scroll to see the text in different fonts. Don't forget to commit changes by clicking the check mark in the top menu bar.

Tip: Use separate text layer for name, date, and copyright/or other elements/symbols you wish to use as part of your watermark. This allows you to adjust each part separately for size, design, etc.

Tip: Dafont.com is a good source to find free fonts.

To add another Text Layer, make sure the text tool is selected and repeat the process. A new layer will be created with the new text.

To add copyright symbol: Add new layer by clicking add new layer icon in bottom of layers palate; next, in tools menu select the **custom shape tool**, select the copyright mark, set color (to black), click in document (making sure you are on the blank layer) and drag cursor.

To move/align/size text and or symbols: Select the corresponding layer of text in the layers palate, then in tools bar select **move tool** (bounding box should appear around text). Move/place text where you want it by dragging with cursor or use arrow keys. Repeat for each layer.

To change size of text using the move tool without distorting the text: Select the corresponding layer in the layers palate, select Move tool – bounding box will appear. Hold down the shift & Alt keys (and keep them held down) as you drag a point on the bounding box to adjust the size.

Once your text is where you want it, you might want to adjust your canvas for a better fit. Cropping works just fine.

Step 3: CREATING A BRUSH FOR YOUR WATERMARK

Select Edit. From drop down menu select **Define Brush Preset**. In pop-up window, name your watermark, and select OK. That's it, you've just made a watermark brush.

Step 4: APPLYING YOUR WATERMARK WITH YOUR NEW BRUSH.

Open image file. Create a new layer by clicking the New Layer icon at the bottom of in layer's palate.

Next, in tools panel, select the brush tool. In the brush menu bar at the top, open the brush preset picker, by clicking on the brush icon in the top menu bar, select your watermark brush (probably at the bottom of the brushes) by double clicking on it. Check your foreground color is set to the color you want. Before clicking on the photo, to set the watermark, you can easily adjust your brush size use the bracket keys (left bracket decreases size/right bracket increases size). Note: The size of your watermark can also be moved and adjusted for size with the use of the move tool as previously noted.

A couple things to remember:

- If you do not want your watermark to print, don't forget to turn off the layer with the watermark.
- Regardless if watermarked, when posting to social medium, remember to reduce the file size and resolution to 72 dpi. This can be done manually or in PS/LR.