

Lesson 3

How big can I print?

Check your photo's resolution



Using Photoshop:

- Open your photo.
- In the top navigation, click on "Image" and scroll down to "Image Size"
- Set your photo's width and height to pixels (not inches or centimeters)
- Voila - the width and height of your photo in pixels is its resolution!



Without Photoshop:

On a Mac:

- Right-click or CTRL click on the photo, then scroll down and click on "Get Info"
- Under "More Info" you'll find the photo's resolution - its width and height in pixels

On a Windows system:

- Right-click on the photo and scroll down to "Properties"
- Under "Details" you'll find the photo size in pixels

Calculate maximum print size

To calculate the maximum size photo print you need to know:

- Your desired print size in inches or centimeters
- Your photo's resolution in pixels
- The number of pixels per inch needed for a good print
(80 PPI is the minimum pixels per inch for a photo print that will be viewed from at least 3 feet, or 1 meter, away.)

Follow these simple calculations to make sure your photo's resolution is big enough for a wall print:

- You want to print a photo that is 30" x 45"
- Your photo has a resolution of 3200 px X 4800 px
- Your photo needs a minimum of 80 pixels per inch (ppi)
- Divide the width in pixels by 3200 pixels by 80 ppi to get a maximum width of 40"
- The photo's height is 4800 pixels. Divide 4800 pixels by 80 ppi to get a maximum height of 60"
- Your photo's maximum size can be 40" by 60", which means you can easily print a 30" x 45" photo because it's the same or smaller than 40" x 60"!