

NEGATIVE SPACE

BLUEPRINT

Using negative space in photography is one of the most powerful ways to beautify your photos, improve your composition and catch a viewer's attention quickly.

You can find examples of negative space in art, architecture, music, and design. The principles remain the same regardless of the medium.

Negative space simply refers to the area that surrounds the main subject or subjects in your photograph. The technique of using negative space is about creating the right relationship between the main subject and its background.

Positive space, on the other hand, refers to the primary subjects of a photograph. Positive and negative space can dance together in a variety of pleasing compositions to create the right effect.

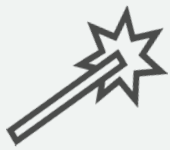
Why is negative space important? It makes us even more curious about the main subject. As a result, viewers will take more time to look at it. In a way, the smaller the subject in the positive space is, the more noticeable it will become.



Examples of negative space in photography

1 CONCEPT

Negative space should never be something that just randomly happens in your photos - you need to give it thought!



There aren't too many specific rules for using negative space in photography. You will learn to use it intuitively by composing shots over and over again. When you see your main subject, slow yourself down and look at the area surrounding it. Move around the subject to see if you can frame it with negative space. Look for points of view that isolate the subject through contrast with its surroundings.

TIP:

The negative space in an image does not have to be a blank area. Things can be in the negative space area, but they should never be the main subjects.

2 COLOR

Keep in mind that negative space doesn't have to be white or black - think in color!



Large plain areas of an image such as sky, grass, or water can serve as negative space. Texture or solid colors are great elements to use in negative space photography. To make your subject stand out against the negative space, pick the colors carefully - play with complementary or analogous colors. You can also experiment with saturated and desaturated colors, or cold and warm ones.

TIP:

Consult the color wheel to pick effective color combinations for positive and negative space.

3 THE ESSENTIALS

3 BALANCE

Negative space can make a shot appear more balanced, so be aware of the relationship between positive and negative space.



The psychology behind negative space in photography is usually to create quiet images. The size difference between the main subject and the surrounding area can make the main subject feel isolated. This can add feelings of loneliness, solitude, relaxation, contemplation, or even importance.

TIP:

As a general rule, you need twice as much negative space to the area taken up by your subject.