

FREE WILL PHOTOS

Photo Editing Software Evaluation Checklist

Use this checklist to compare software and record what stands out while you test each program.

Software Being Tested: _____

Date: _____

■ 1. Ease of Use & Workflow

- Import a photo, locate the basic tools, and export a finished image.
- Notice whether the layout feels intuitive or confusing.

Why it matters: A good editor should help you work quickly without forcing you to hunt for simple tools.

■ 2. RAW Processing & Image Quality

- Open a RAW file and adjust exposure, white balance, highlights, and shadows.
- Test noise reduction and sharpening on a challenging image.

Why it matters: The software should pull the most quality from your file while keeping details natural.

■ 3. Masking & Local Adjustments

- Brighten a subject, darken a sky, or adjust only the background.
- Try both manual masking and AI masking tools if available.

Why it matters: Selective editing is what turns a basic correction into a refined final image.

■ 4. Performance & Responsiveness

- Open several files, move between images, and apply a demanding adjustment.
- Export a small batch and watch for lag, freezing, or crashes.

Why it matters: Speed and stability directly affect how enjoyable and efficient your workflow feels.

■ 5. File Management & Exporting

- Organize images, apply edits to more than one file, and review export settings.
- Check output options for social media, printing, and client delivery.

Why it matters: The right software should support your full workflow from import to delivery.

Notes While Evaluating

Tip: Test the same few images in every trial so you can compare the software fairly.