

Removing Sensor Dust Spots in Lightroom

The Woodlands Camera Club
Processing Your Photos SIG
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How Do You Know if You Have Sensor Dust Spots?

- If you start seeing black or gray spots show up in your images in roughly the same location on multiple images you either have dirt on your lens or dust on your sensor
- Spots tend to show up more clearly in sky or large single color areas (walls, etc)
- First step - clean or change your lens and shoot a few more images of the sky or a wall; if spots are still there it's dust on the sensor
- Next step - get your sensor cleaned!

How Do You Remove the Spots From Images You've Already Taken?

- The simplest approach in Lightroom is to use the Spot Removal tool to remove sensor dust spots
- Open an image in the Develop Module and select the Spot Removal Tool; set it to Heal
- If the spots are readily visible, place the cursor over the spot, size it to slightly larger than the spot, and click; Check the result and adjust as needed; Repeat for other spots
- To help see the spots better, turn on Visualize Spots in the Toolbar below the image while the Spot Removal Tool is active; After spot removal in this mode make sure you check the image again after turning off Visualize Spots to see if adjustments are needed

Removing Dust Spots from Multiple Images

- If you've taken a bunch of images with dust spots on the sensor you can bulk process them in LR to remove the spots
- Select one photo and use the Spot Removal tool to remove all the dust spots
- Option 1 - Choose Copy Settings and select only Spot Removal; Select all the other photos involved and Choose Paste Settings; Don't worry about photo orientation (landscape vs portrait) because LR will handle it automatically; LR will also adjust for any images you may have already cropped

Removing Dust Spots from Multiple Images (cont'd)

- Option 2 - With the edited image highlighted, select all the other photos involved in the Filmstrip; Click on Sync and choose only Spot Removal
- Review each image as you continue processing to make sure no odd selections were used to remove the spots
- For best results, you should consider processing in batches rather than an entire trip; Sensor spots could change from day to day; Consider batching a day or shooting location at a time