

# Lightroom Classic 2026 Remove and Clean Up

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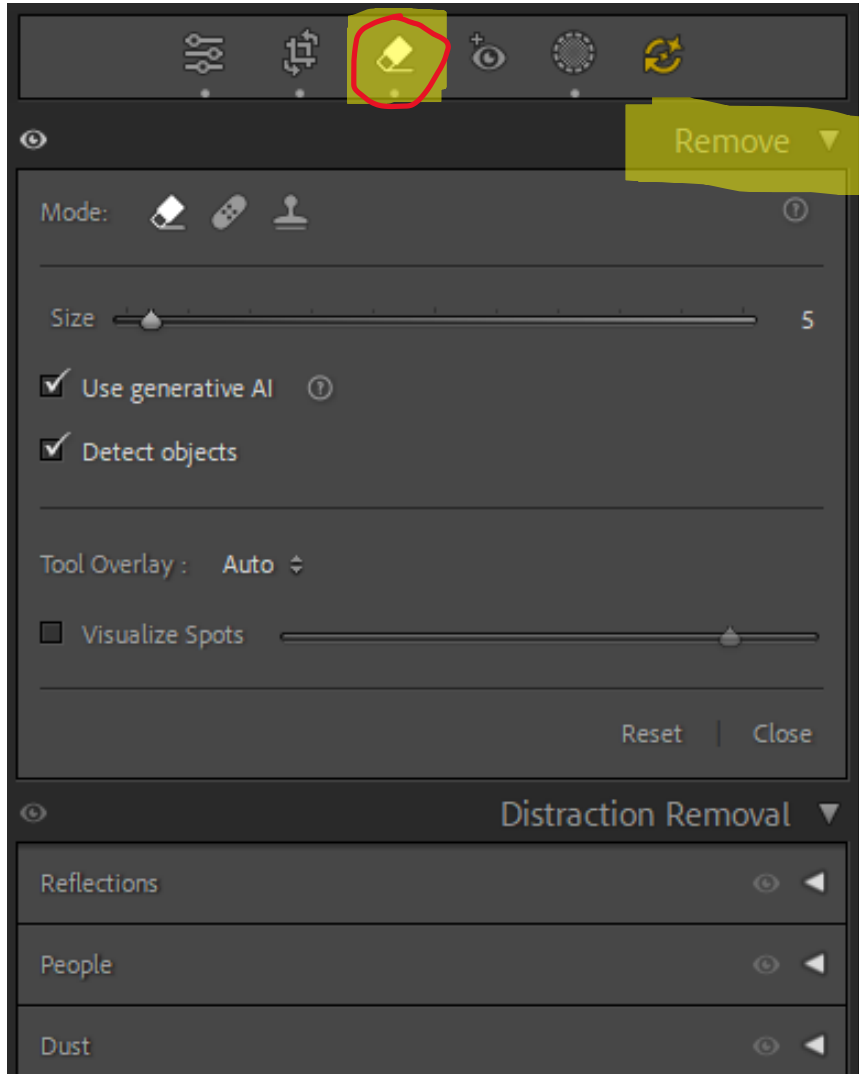
# Why Remove and Clean Up?

- Larry Petterborg in “What Judges Look For”
  - Do not give a judge anything to dislike!!!
  - Eliminate obvious flaws in your submissions. Eg. Noise, dust spots, horizons, background distractions, edges, focus, sharpness, print quality, matts & matting.
- Alan Whiteside in “Seeing Beyond the Subject, Part 2”
  - Simplifying can mean:
    - Remove distracting and unnecessary elements
    - Make reading the photo easier for the viewer
- Lightroom Classic gives us powerful tools to remove these distractions.

# But ...

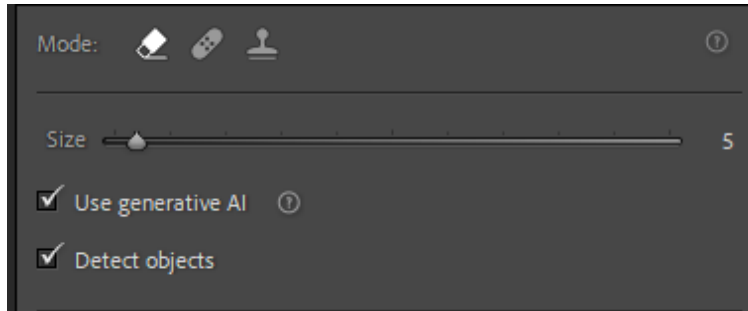
- The genres of Nature Photography and Photojournalism have very strict rules about what can be done to an image. Know and follow these rules for these genres.
- Included in GSCCC PHOTOJOURNALISM and NATURE Definitions
  - **Editing Guidelines:** Processing or editing must be limited to making the image look as close to the original scene as possible, except that conversion to grayscale monochrome is allowed.
  - **Editing techniques that are not allowed:** Removing, adding to, moving or changing any part of an image, except for cropping and straightening.

# The Remove Panel in the Develop Module



- Mode:
  - Remove – The most powerful tool
  - Heal – Perfect for small blemishes. Blends source and destination for smooth effects.
  - Clone – Exactly copies source to destination. Limited use until you need it
- Tool Overlay – usually in “Auto”
- Visualize spots – find those sensor dust spots.
- Distraction Removal
  - Reflections
  - People
  - Dust

# Remove



- In Lightroom Classic (13.3+), the **Remove** icon in the Develop module's Toolstrip is the new **Generative Remove** tool, powered by Adobe Firefly AI

When you open the Remove panel, you'll see:

- **Generative AI** checkbox – enables AI-based object removal.
  - **Object Aware** checkbox – lets AI refine the mask outline.
  - Other controls for brush size, opacity, and mask visualization
  - If you **uncheck “Generative AI”**, the tool falls back to the older **Content Aware Remove** (previously called Healing). This still removes masked objects, but without AI generation — it fills the area with existing image data rather than generating new pixels.
- PhotoPlace Gallery Note on A.I.  
*PhotoPlace Gallery welcomes a wide range of photographic processes and post-production techniques. However, fully AI-generated images are not eligible for submission. While AI-assisted tools are increasingly integrated into photographic editing software, submitted work must be created through photographic processes. All capture methods and photographic techniques are eligible unless otherwise noted in a specific call for entry. AI-generated imagery is not accepted. We trust that photographers submitting work to the gallery share this commitment to photography as an artist-driven image-making process.*

Demos