

CSS Backgrounds

The CSS background properties are used to define the background effects for elements.

CSS background properties:

- background-color
- background-image
- background-repeat
- background-position

Background Color

The **background-color** property specifies the background color of an element.

The background color of a page is set like this:

Example

```
body {  
  background-color: lightblue;  
}
```

With CSS, a color is most often specified by:

- a valid color name - like "red"
- a HEX value - like "#ff0000"
- an RGB value - like "rgb(255,0,0)"

In the example below, the <h1>, <p>, and <div> elements have different background colors:

Example

```
h1 {  
  background-color: green;  
}  
  
div {  
  background-color: lightblue;  
}  
  
p {  
  background-color: yellow;  
}
```

Background Image

The **background-image** property specifies an image to use as the background of an element.

By default, the image is repeated so it covers the entire element.

The background image for a page can be set like this:

Example

```
body {  
  background-image: url("paper.gif");  
}
```

Background Image - Repeat Horizontally or Vertically

By default, the `background-image` property repeats an image both horizontally and vertically.

Some images should be repeated only horizontally or vertically, or they will look strange, like this:

Example

```
body {  
  background-image: url("gradient_bg.png");  
}
```

If the image above is repeated only horizontally (`background-repeat: repeat-x;`), the background will look better:

Example

```
body {  
  background-image: url("gradient_bg.png");  
  background-repeat: repeat-x;  
}
```

Tip: To repeat an image vertically, set `background-repeat: repeat-y;`

Background Image - Set position and no-repeat

Showing the background image only once is also specified by the `background-repeat` property:

Example

```
body {  
  background-image: url("img_tree.png");  
  background-repeat: no-repeat;  
}
```

In the example above, the background image is shown in the same place as the text. We want to change the position of the image, so that it does not disturb the text too much.

The position of the image is specified by the `background-position` property:

Example

```
body {  
  background-image: url("img_tree.png");  
  background-size: 100%;  
  background-repeat: no-repeat;  
  background-position: right top;  
}
```

Background - Shorthand property

To shorten the code, it is also possible to specify all the background properties in one single property. This is called a shorthand property.

The shorthand property for background is `background`:

Example

```
body {  
  background: #ffffff url("img_tree.png") no-repeat right top;  
}
```

When using the shorthand property the order of the property values is:

- `background-color`
- `background-image`
- `background-repeat`
- `background-position`

It does not matter if one of the property values is missing, as long as the other ones are in this order.

Set the background color for the page to "linen" and the background color for <h1> to "lightblue"

Set "paper.gif" as the background image of the page.

Set "gradient_bg_vertical.png" as the background image of the page, and repeat it vertically only.