**Background**

The background property in CSS allows you to control the background of any element (what paints underneath the content in that element). It is a *shorthand* property, which means that it allows you to write what would be multiple CSS properties in one. Like this:

body {

background:

url(sweettexture.jpg) /\* image \*/

top center / 200px 200px /\* position / size \*/

no-repeat /\* repeat \*/

fixed /\* attachment \*/

padding-box /\* origin \*/

content-box /\* clip \*/

red; /\* color \*/

}

background is made up of eight other properties:

* [background-image](http://css-tricks.com/almanac/properties/b/background-image/)
* [background-position](http://css-tricks.com/almanac/properties/b/background-position/)
* [background-size](http://css-tricks.com/almanac/properties/b/background-size/)
* [background-repeat](http://css-tricks.com/almanac/properties/b/background-repeat/)
* [background-attachment](http://css-tricks.com/almanac/properties/b/background-attachment/)
* [background-origin](http://css-tricks.com/almanac/properties/b/background-origin/)
* [background-clip](http://css-tricks.com/almanac/properties/b/background-clip/)
* [background-color](http://css-tricks.com/almanac/properties/b/background-color/)

You can use any combination of these properties that you like, in almost any order (although the order recommended in the spec is above). There is a gotcha though: anything you don't specify in the background property is automatically set to its default. So if you do something like this:

body {

background-color: red;

background: url(sweettexture.jpg);

}

The background will be transparent, instead of red. The fix is easy though: just define background-color after background, or just use the shorthand (e.g. background: url(...) red;)

[**#**](https://css-tricks.com/almanac/properties/b/background/#article-header-id-0)**Multiple Backgrounds**

CSS3 added support for multiple backgrounds, which layer over the top of each other. Any property related to backgrounds can take a comma separated list, like this:

body {

background: url(sweettexture.jpg), url(texture2.jpg) black;

background-repeat: repeat-x, no-repeat;

}

Each value in the comma separated list corresponds to a layer: the first value is the top layer, the second value is the second layer, and the background color is always the last layer.