

Create That Wet Look

As a commercial photographer, I would wet down the pavement in front of my architectural shots. Some of the areas were so big that I couldn't finish before some areas were already drying up. This Photoshop technique totally solves the problem. In fact I use it on other types of images also.

Image: Reflections



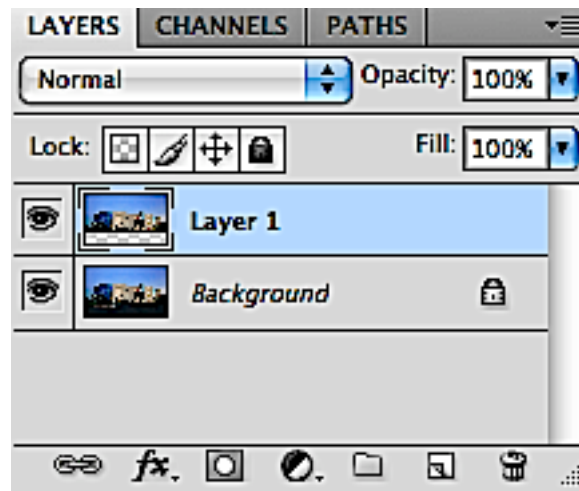
Start by making a selection of the building minus the dark foreground.

Feather the selection 3 pixels (select/feather)



Press: Control J (PC) or Command J (Mac) to make a layer of the selection.

The layer palette will look like this:



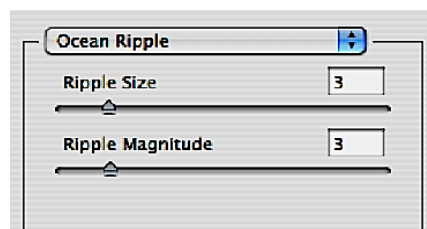
Choose: edit/transform/flip vertical. The image will look like this:



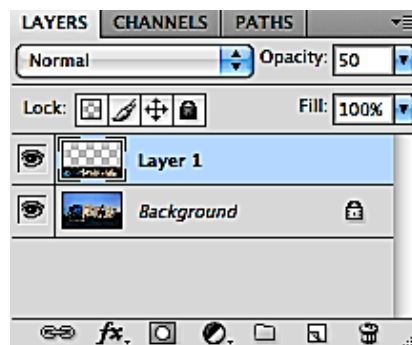
Choose the move tool. Hold down the shift key and then tap on the down arrow on the keyboard to move the layer down into position.



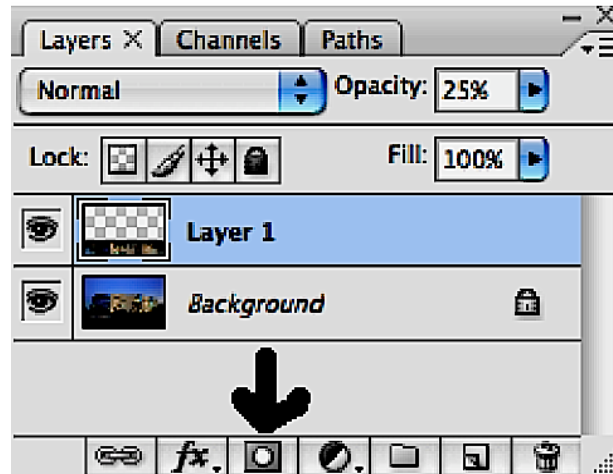
At this stage there are many creative options. You might want to apply a filter at this stage. You might try: Filter/distort/ocean ripple. Here's a very subtle ocean ripple setting:



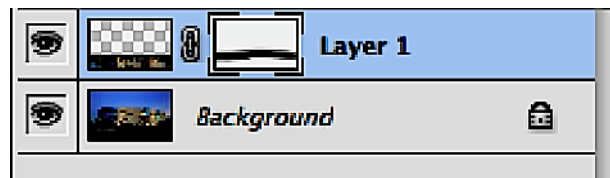
Lower the opacity of the layer if you want.



Add a layer mask to blend in the transition where these two layers meet.



Press the letter “D” on the keyboard to set the foreground color on the toolbar to Black. Press the letter “X” if necessary. Choose the brush tool and a soft edged brush, and paint (drag) across the areas where the two layers meet. Here’s how the mask might look:



There you have it, an instant reflection anywhere anytime.

Tip: Paint with white across the same area to undo the affect. Then set the Foreground color to black and paint across the transition area again. The beauty of the mask is that it can be undone and you can start over.