

Keep photos used for a personalized gift more private by checking the maker's rules, limiting access to the image, and asking for it to be deleted when it is no longer needed. These steps can reduce the chance of sharing, but they cannot ensure that nobody will copy the photo.

A little care before you send an image can help you understand who may see it and how it might be used.

Review the maker's practices first

Read the privacy policy and any terms that cover uploaded pictures. Check who can open the files, how long they are stored, and whether the maker can use them in examples, advertisements, or social media posts.

If the rules do not answer your questions, contact the maker before uploading anything. A small business may take pictures of completed work to show in a portfolio. State clearly that you do not agree to having your photo or finished gift posted or shared publicly.

Find out how to ask for the image to be erased. Some information may have to stay on file for legal or business purposes, and copies in backups may not disappear right away. Ask the maker to explain what deletion involves and how long it can take.

Share only the necessary image

Pick a picture that suits the gift without exposing details that do not need to be there. If they are not important to the design, crop out things like an address or a school logo. Look over the background, since it may reveal information even if the main subject does not.

Before you send the photo, take a few precautions:

- Get permission from everyone shown, particularly if other people may see the completed gift.
- Send the picture using the upload method the maker provides. Do not put it in a public comment.
- Make sure a sharing link is limited to the people who are meant to receive it.
- Remove location details and other metadata if you do not want them attached to the image.

Keep your original photo on your own device or account, and send a separate copy. Share one picture rather than giving access to an entire album.

Check in once the gift is ready

After the order is finished, ask the maker to remove the uploaded photo and any working versions that are no longer required. Ask as well if they took pictures of the completed item, and tell them not to use those pictures.

If you shared the image through a cloud link, disable the link or delete the shared file once it is no longer needed. This prevents new access through that link, but it cannot erase copies that someone has already downloaded.

Think about how the recipient may share the gift. If they might post a picture, politely ask them to keep it private or to check with the people in the photo before posting.

Photo privacy questions

Can someone share a photo sent through a private upload?

Yes. Anyone who can access the file might copy it, and the service may keep it according to its own rules. Check the terms and restrict access before you upload.

Is it best to delete the photo as soon as I order?

First wait for the maker to confirm that the image is no longer needed. After that, disable access to your sharing link and ask the maker to delete its copies.

See also: here