

KNOWLEDGE BASE ARTICLE

Setting a Background Image for a Tile



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Table Of Contents

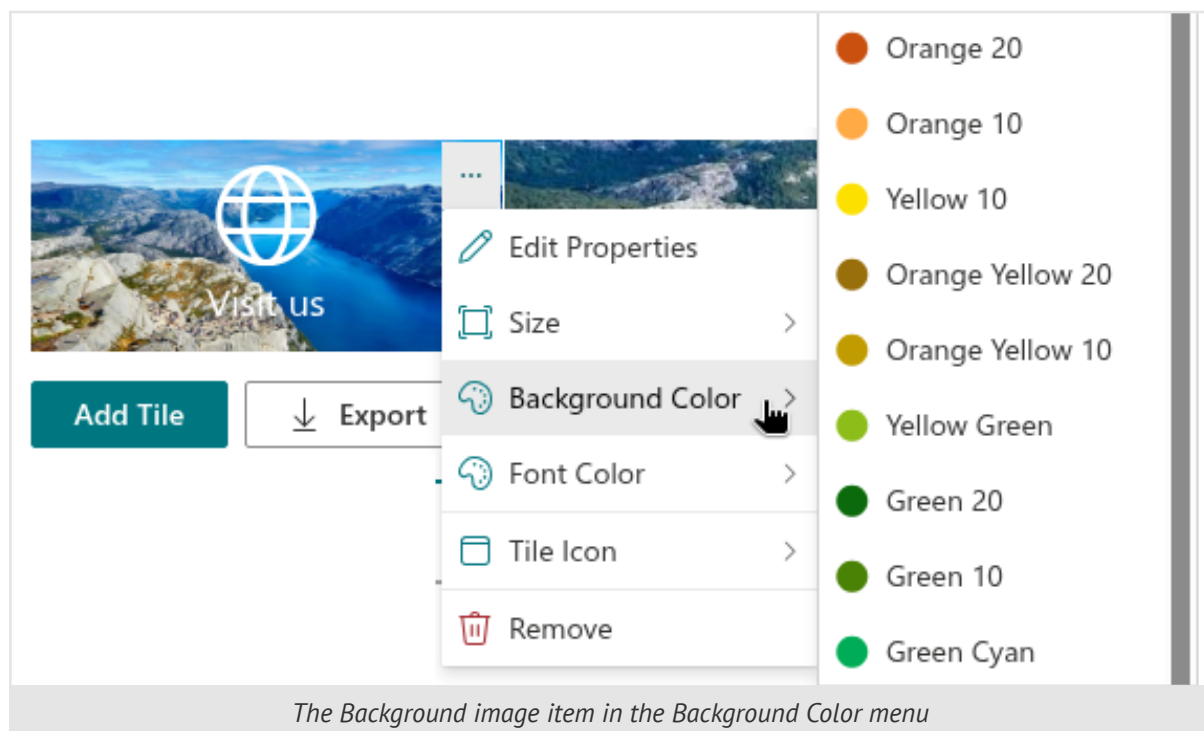
Introduction	4
Setting the image	4
How the image is displayed	4
The color underneath	5
Keeping the text readable	5
The YouTube thumbnail	6
Image requirements	6
Removing the image	6
Terms	8

Introduction

A colored tile with an icon is clear and compact; a tile with a photograph is inviting. [Smart Tiles](#) lets any tile carry a background image instead of a flat color – a picture of the office for *Visit us*, a product shot for a launch page, a team photo for the department site. This article explains how to set the image, how it is displayed and how to keep the tile readable.

Setting the image

- 1 Open the page in edit mode and click the ... button of the tile.
- 2 Point to **Background Color** and choose **Background image** – the first item of the submenu.
- 3 In the **Image** dialog, type or paste the address of the image into the **Image URL** field, or browse the libraries of the site and click the image.
- 4 Click **Apply**.

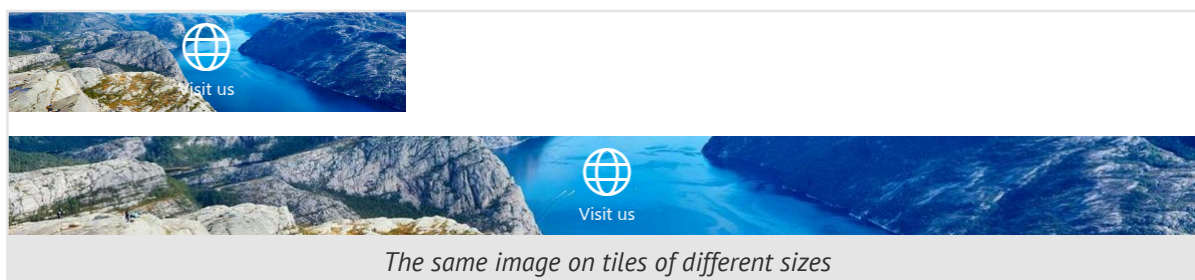


The **Image** dialog is the same one used for custom icon images: the **Image URL** field accepts an address beginning with **https://** or a path beginning with **/**, and the list below it browses the **document libraries** of the current site folder by folder, showing the images as thumbnails. The dialog is described in detail in [KB10244. Using a Custom Image as a Tile Icon](#).

How the image is displayed

The image fills the entire tile: it is scaled so that it covers the tile completely and is centered, and whatever does not fit is cropped at the edges. The tile keeps its proportions – its width is set by the **Size** of the tile and its height by the content and the **Internal Indent** – so the same image is cropped differently on a Small and on a Full Width tile.

The icon, the title and the description are drawn over the image, in the **Font Color** of the tile.



The color underneath

The background color of the tile does not disappear when an image is set: it is painted under the image and shows through while the image loads, through transparent areas of a PNG, and if the image cannot be loaded at all. Choose a color close to the overall tone of the picture, so that a tile that is still loading does not flash in a different color.

Note

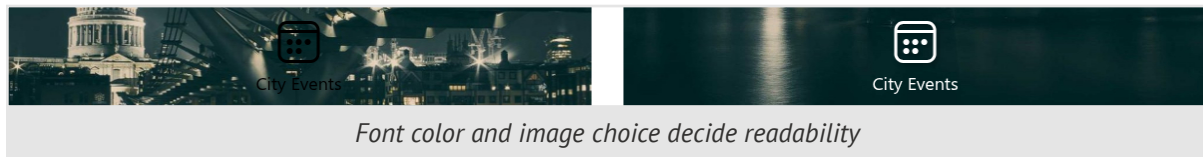
Choosing a color in the **Background Color** menu removes the background image: a tile has either an image or a color as its background, never both. The color that was painted under the image becomes the visible background again.

Keeping the text readable

Text over a photograph is only as readable as the contrast between them. A few habits help:

- pick images with a **calm area** – sky, wall, water – where the title will sit, or crop the image so that such an area is in the center;
- use **white text** on dark pictures and **black text** on light ones, and set the **Font Color** accordingly;
- enable **Shadow** in the web part settings: the drop shadow under the icon separates it from a busy background;

- consider hiding the **title** for image tiles that speak for themselves, and putting the name into the **Description** instead, so that it still appears in the tooltip.



The YouTube thumbnail

When the link of a tile points to a YouTube video, the **Background Color** menu gains one more item above **Background image: Thumbnail**. It uses the preview image of the video as the background, without storing an image address in the tile. On the published page a thumbnail tile shows only the play button; its title and description remain in the tooltip.

Image requirements

- The address must use **https://** or be a path on the current tenant; visitors must have read access to the image.
- Keep the file reasonably small – a photograph of 1200 pixels on its longer side, saved as JPEG or WebP, is enough for a Full Width tile and loads quickly on every page where the panel is used.
- Images with a transparent background show the tile color through the transparent areas, which can be used for watermark-style designs.

Warning

Images are loaded by the visitor's browser from the address in the tile. Store the images in a library that every visitor of the page can read – **Site Assets** of the same site is the usual choice. A visitor without access sees the background color only.

Removing the image

Either choose a color in the **Background Color** menu, or open **Background image** again and click **Remove image** in the dialog. The tile returns to its background color.

Tip

The colors available for tiles and their font are described in [KB10043. Tile Colors in Smart Tiles](#).

Learn more about the product: <https://vitextra.com/en/products/smart-tiles>

Terms

Document Library

A special type of list that stores files, folders, and information about them. Like a list, a document library can contain personal or shared views, item-level permissions, and so on.