

iStock Search Guide

How to find the best content for your project

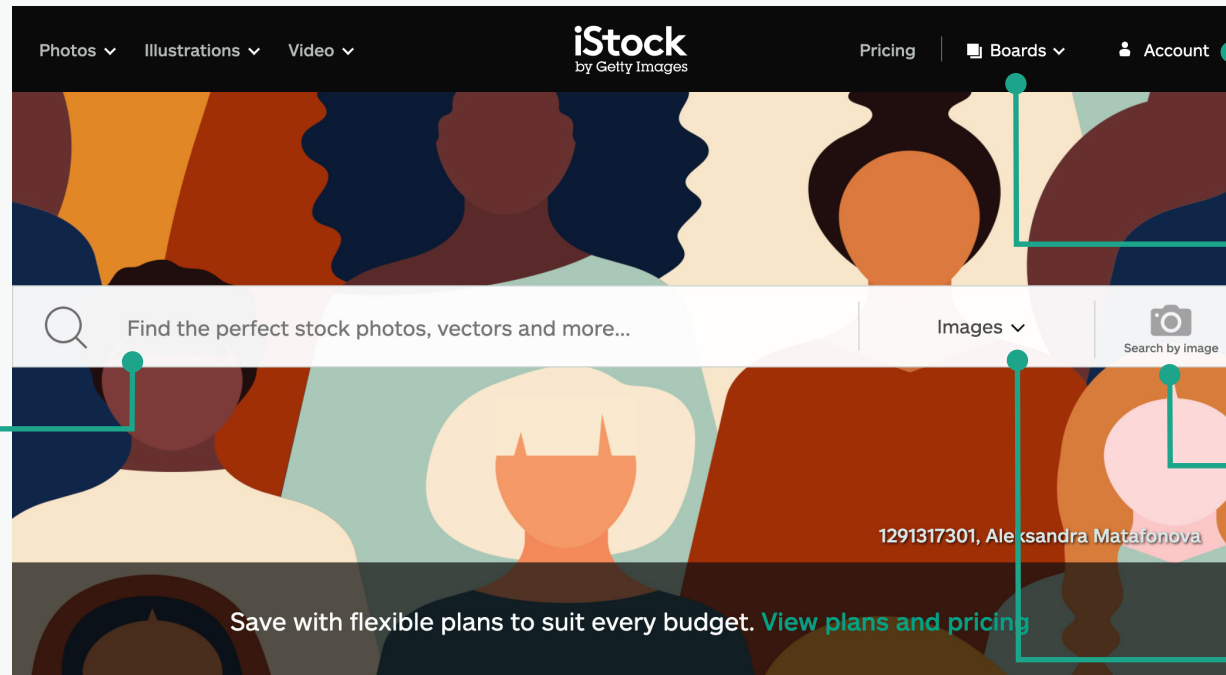
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Getting started

Begin your search on the homepage for photos, illustrations, and video



Click here to review account information, download history, and more

Create, edit, and manage Boards, which allow you to save, organize, and share content that you find in your searches


Use our powerful Search by Image tool to upload a photo and find visually similar content

Describe the content you need


Select from images, videos, vectors, and illustrations to refine your search by content type

Save with flexible plans to suit every budget. [View plans and pricing](#)


Less searching. More finding.
Discover royalty-free images, illustrations and videos that will make you stand out.




Photos



Illustrations



Vectors



HD and 4K video

Find curated content on our homepage

Explore the latest visual trends and curated imagery on our homepage

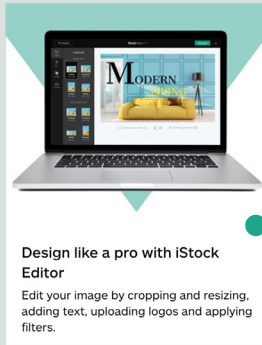
Take a deep dive into the work of our Signature Artist of the Month



Signature Artist of the Month

This month we showcase the work of photographer Maja Dedagic (aka M_a_y_a), whose broad portfolio takes us on a voyage through all four seasons. These joyful lifestyle images feature daily adventures, big and small: from making a morning smoothie and sorting laundry, to weekend camping trips, and more.

[Meet April's Signature Artist](#)



Check out products and plugins to improve your creative workflow

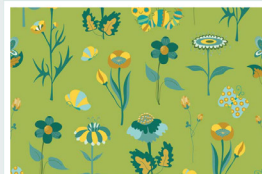
Get free stock photos, illustrations and videos

Each week, our experts select a photo from our exclusive Signature collection and make it free to download, with free illustrations and video clips available monthly.

Access free stock images, videos, and illustrations to power your next campaign



Free photos



Free illustrations



Free video clips

Explore search results

The screenshot shows the iStock search results for 'sustainability'. The interface includes a top navigation bar with 'Photos', 'Illustrations', and 'Video' filters. A search bar contains 'sustainability' with 588,308 images found. A left sidebar offers various filters such as 'Sort by' (Best match, Newest, Most popular), 'License type' (Creative, Editorial), and 'Orientation'. The main content area displays a grid of images, including a large 'ECOLOGY' icon set, a globe with icons, wind turbines, a hand holding a globe, and a woman working in a garden. Callout boxes provide instructions on how to use these features.

Filter content by collection type

Explore related searches based on your initial search terms to see suggestions and phrases that can spark further inspiration

Click image to view a larger size and see all details

Select from images, videos, vectors, and illustrations to refine search by content type

Choose a different display style when viewing search results

Click here to view videos from your stills search

Hover to show actions: save to Board or view similar images

Filter your results

Add or remove filters by clicking on your chosen filter and toggling it on or off

The image shows a dark-themed 'Refine' panel with two columns of filter options. Callout boxes with teal borders and lines pointing to specific elements provide instructions:

- Open the Refine panel to explore all the ways you can refine your results** (points to the 'Refine' header)
- Sort by Best match to see content most relevant to your search phrase** (points to the 'Best match' radio button)
- Sort by Most popular to see our top visuals that users love, which are related to your search** (points to the 'Most popular' radio button)
- Tick this box to see images, videos, and illustrations that are only available on iStock** (points to the 'Only from iStock' checkbox)
- See creative or editorial content*** (points to the 'Creative' and 'Editorial' checkboxes)
- Filter by orientation, number of people, color, image size, upload date, and more** (points to the 'Orientation' dropdown)
- Filter based on attributes such as age and ethnicity to find more diverse content** (points to the 'Age' and 'Ethnicity' dropdowns)
- By default, images with nudity are excluded from results—toggle this setting to include or exclude this content** (points to the 'Exclude nudity' toggle)

*All creative content can be used for all projects. Any content labelled as editorial is intended for use in connection with topics that are newsworthy (news articles, book interiors, blogs, etc.), because we don't have model or property releases for what's featured within this content. For more information on releases please visit this page.

Navigating the content detail page

Open the details page for any image or video to see pricing, similar images, related keywords, and more

Click on the contributor's name to search within their portfolio

Purchase a single image or see how you can save with a budget-friendly subscription

Click "Edit this photo" to edit your chosen image in the iStock Editor

Use the Stock photo ID to quickly find your images again and to properly credit the asset

Click on "Add an extended license" to add more rights to your already-included standard license

View similar images and videos, or content from the same series, if available

Click on these keywords to explore additional content

Save images with Boards

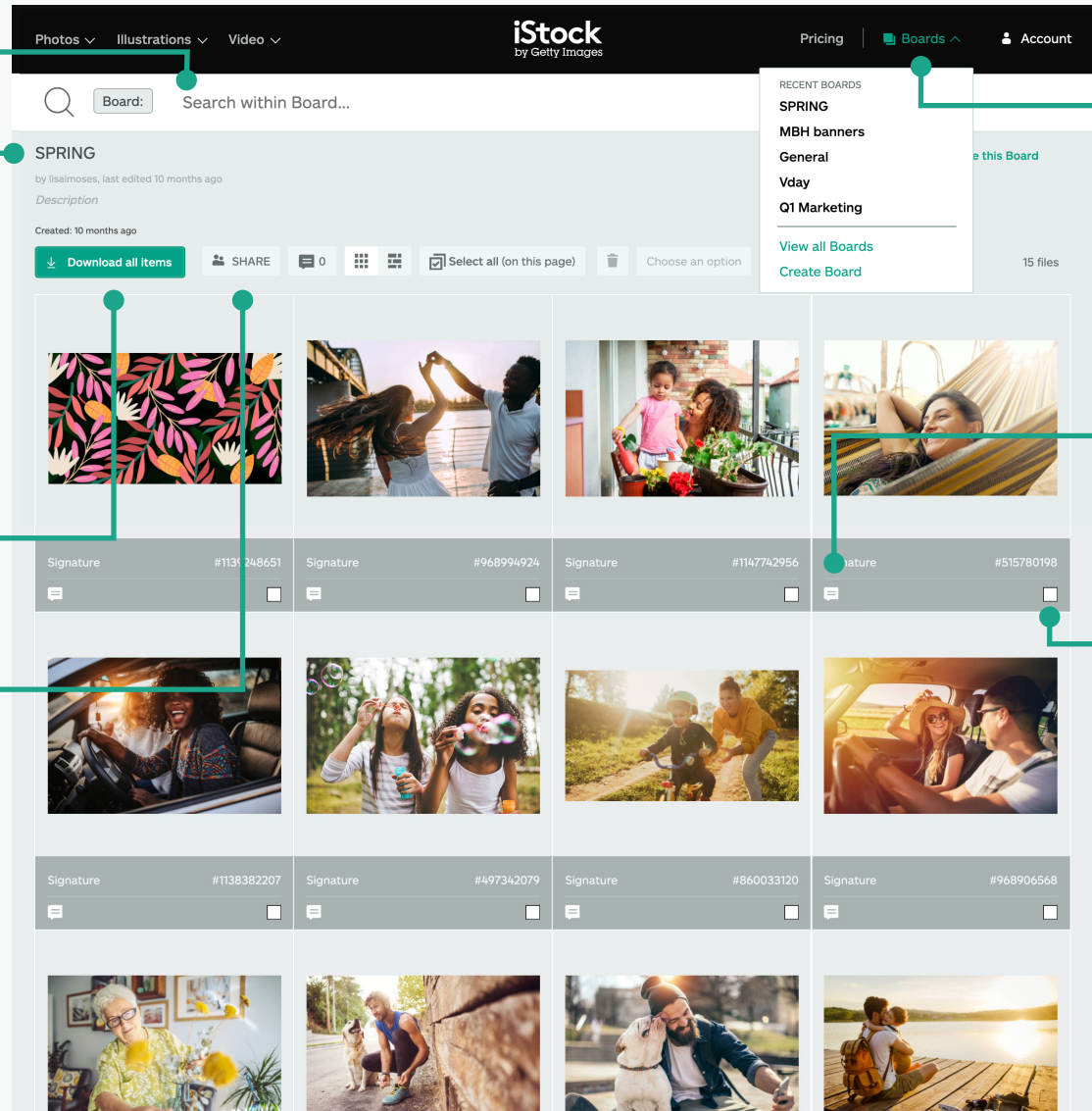
Collaborate with ease by saving content you love to Boards and sharing them with your team

Search within your Board by typing keywords or an asset ID into the search bar

Edit the names of your Boards to better organize them, and edit the description as a reminder of why you've saved these images

Click this button to download content from your Boards

Click this button to share your Boards with your team



Hover over the Boards icon to create new Boards or to view existing ones

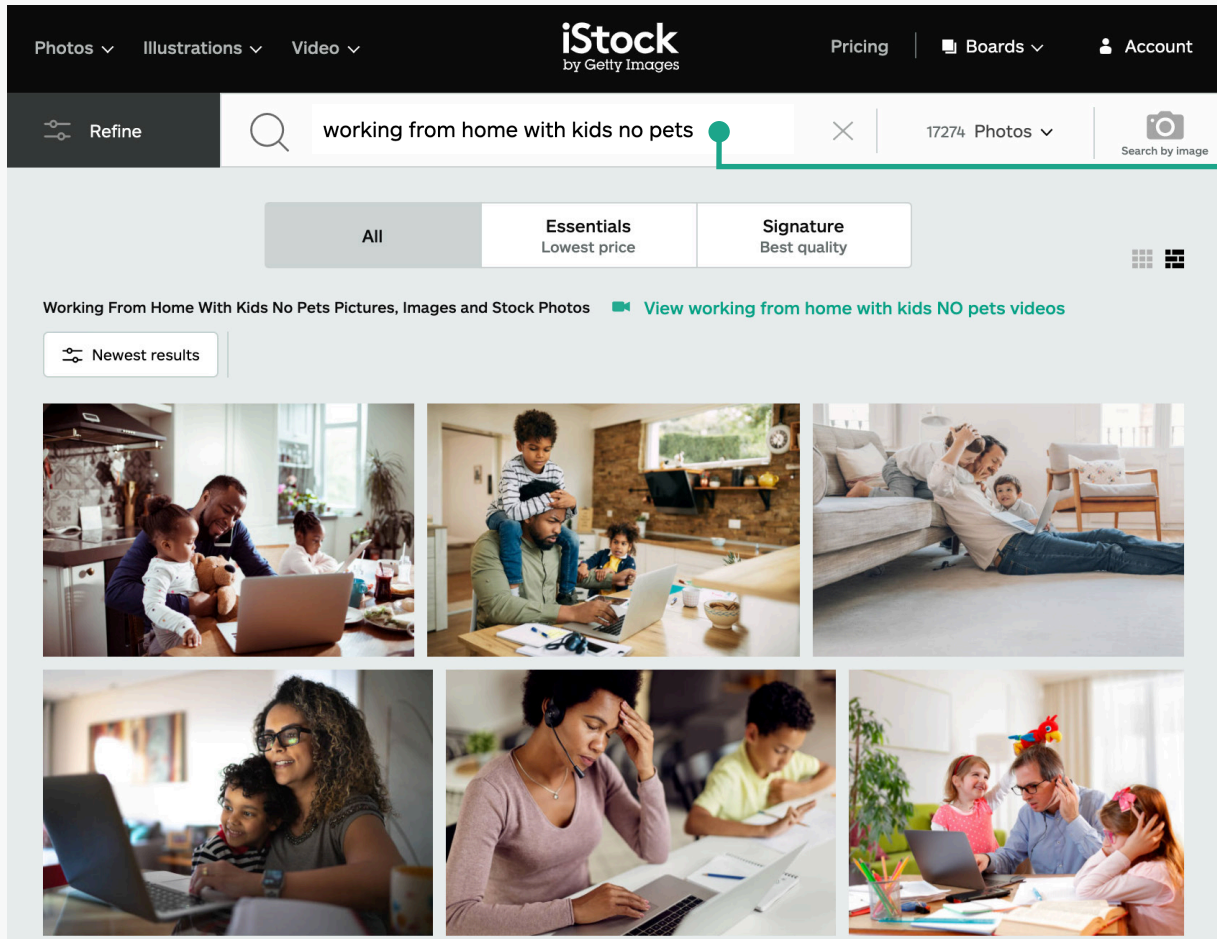
Click this icon to add comments about individual assets on a Board

Click these boxes to select images to copy or move to other Boards, or to select multiple assets for downloading

Reorder the images on your Board by simply dragging and dropping content from one slot to another

Creative search tips

Find what you need faster



Use Boolean terms to narrow your search with words like “no”, “or”, and “and”—you can also use natural language to tell the site what you’re looking for. Below are examples of Boolean logic, as well as natural language terms, that you can use to find your content.

No / Not

Exclude items with this keyword (Sky no Clouds)

Or

Include either of the keywords (Sky Night or Day)

Combination of Booleans

Combine different Boolean terms to further filter results (Working from home, with or without kids, no pets)

And / commas

Whether you use “and”, a comma, or a space between two terms, you’ll get the same search results (Sky and Clouds = Sky Clouds = Sky, Clouds)

Natural language

Search with natural phrases (Sky without Clouds, Sky with Clouds)

Keep up with your favorite contributors

Include a contributor’s name as part of your search to find content from them. Or click the credit link on the asset detail page to find more content from the same contributor.

Bookmark your results

Easily return to any search results page by bookmarking it in your browser.

Creative keyword and search phrase inspiration

Below is a sample of different types of keywords that are used to describe characteristics of creative content. Explore these keywords and look at keywords on images you like for more ideas



Real bodies



Vegetarian and vegan



The gig economy



Virtual events



Zero waste



Authentic people



Online medicine



Caring for your community



Working from home



Travel destination



Project #showus



Disrupt aging



Elevate your work with our resources

Get in the know with the iStock blog

Learn best practices and find inspiration with expert search tips and insight from iStock's top creatives. From learning about copyright & licensing to tapping into the latest trends, you'll find it all on the blog.

[Visit the iStock blog >](#)

Need help or have any more questions?

For any additional questions on our search capabilities, please reach out.

[Contact Us >](#)

