

I would strongly recommend saving all your images in PhotoShop format, the file type with a PSD extension in the file name. When the file is saved in PSD format all the information in the file is saved with the one exception of the History palette. All Layers, Adjustment Layers, Channels, Selections, Paths and Color Profiles are saved with the file.

This way if you want to modify any aspects of the file after you close it you can always resume the editing where you left off. You can change any of the Adjustment Layers, rearrange any of the Layers, modify them, adjust a selection etc.

Disc storage cost is inexpensive and easily affordable especially if you use CDR discs to archive your images.

It is also recommended to leave all the layers intact without flattening the image before saving. The advantage of being able to rework an image days after you close it and get the slide back from the lab and find out it is not exactly what you wanted far outweighs the extra storage cost for saving the larger size file. It also applies if you locally print the image. After working on a complex manipulation you do not necessarily see all the defects until the image ages for a few days.