

Visual Optimization

Getting Started

Clean Code:

- More accessible
- Helps contributors
- Speeds up editing
- Helps start new projects

- Use Shorthand efficiently
- Indent child elements
- Order properties consistently
- Use whitespace wisely

Resets:

- strips default browser styles
- Saves time
- Provides solid base to build your site
- Write your own rules

- Meyer's reset
- Stolon's global reset
- Shaun Inman's global reset
- Tripoli reset
- Custom reset

Organizing Your Code

CSS table of contents:

- universal styles
- Header & main nav
- Main body
- Sidebar
- Widget
- Footer
- Comments & forms

Section Heading:

- Two lines of asterisks

Indentation:

- one rule = one line
- Multiple rules = indent rules below selector

Naming conventions:

- name things based on what they are, not what they look like

Commenting Your Code

- Let people know the reasoning behind your values
- Explain colors
- Use asterisks or hyphens to emphasize
- Create separator lines for large blocks of comments

Writing Clean Code

Font families

- Usually only one or two necessary

Avoid unnecessary tags and classes

- Use multiple classes and separate the selectors

use shorthand for margins, padding, colors, etc.

Avoid redundancy with selector groups

Useful techniques

Master color guide

- Put all the colors used in a comment at the top
- Explain what each color is and where it's used

Master typography

- put in comment at the top
- List fonts with explanations and uses
- Make sure to list font-sizes with their respective fonts

Structure template

- Make a layout for things that you do automatically for every project

Master css file

- Imports all stylesheets into one

Speeding Up Your Code

Removing unnecessary line breaks

- Go back and make sure all single rules are on the same line as their selectors

Go back and remove selectors you didn't actually use

Minifying:

- Compress css using tools
- Only minify when ready to go live
- Save local version of css for editing
- [Cssminifier.com](http://cssminifier.com)
- [Csscompressor.com](http://csscompressor.com)