How do I use the Blur, Smudge, and Sharpen tools in Adobe Photoshop Elements 8.0?

**Subject Descriptors:** Blur, Smudge, Sharpen, background, bring out, focal point

**Application (Version):** Adobe Photoshop Elements 8.0

**Task Description:** I want to use the Blur, Smudge and Sharpen tools on an image in Adobe Photoshop. How do I do that?

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**First, open the image you wish to adjust...**

![Image of the Open dialog box in Adobe Photoshop Elements 8.0, showing the 'Water lilies.jpg' file selected for opening with a preview of the image.]
Select the BLUR tool

One way to use the BLUR tool is by selecting the waterdrop icon in your toolbox...

Change the diameter of the Blur Tool

Here you can choose the type of brush as well as the size.
Blurring an Image...

To use the Blur tool, click on an area and drag over the parts you want blurred...
You can blur a part of your image to make the space around it a focal point.
Note: Repeatedly going over an area will increase the amount of blur.

Selecting the Smudge Tool

To use the SMUDGE tool, click the small arrow in the corner of the waterdrop icon in your toolbox, and drag to the side. A menu will appear. Select SMUDGE TOOL...
Using the Smudge Tool

To use the smudge tool, click on an area and drag over the parts you want smudged. The smudge tool is great to use for dust and scratches on old photographs, or blending colors together. It can also make a photograph appear as a painting when used across the entire image. Note: Repeatedly going over an area will increase the amount of smudge.

The SHARPEN Tool

Click the small arrow in the corner of the waterdrop icon in your toolbox, and drag to the side. A menu will appear. Select SHARPEN TOOL...
To use the sharpen tool, click on an area and drag over the parts you want sharpened...
The sharpen tool will allow you to make an area of your image stand out.
Note: Repeatedly going over an area will increase the amount of sharpness.