Open Photoshop.

In Windows or OS 9 go to the Edit menu to Color Settings.
(In Mac OSX go to the Photoshop menu to Color Settings.

1. Note there are pre-defined settings one can select from.
   Some vendors may have you change this when converting your image from RGB to CMYK or SPOT modes.

U.S. Prepress Defaults contains the most widely used choices with the setup of:
2. Adobe RGB(1998)* which gives a broad color range for on-screen display, and

You may often need to change the settings based on your current output device, to emulate on screen the printer you are aiming for.

Web Graphics Defaults yields a narrower spectrum for on-screen display, emulating the common web and broadcast color palette.

4. Selects a gamma for the grayscale profile (1.8 is default).
   Also, default for Spot Color modes is 20% dot gain (compensation for ink dots spreading/bleeding).

5. Color Management Policies controls those annoying little messages you get when opening a Photoshop file that has a different color profile attached to it. This also controls whether or not a default working profile will be assigned to new images, or if the current working profile will always be used. Best bet is to leave them OFF, unless you are preparing and converting RGB images to CMYK mode for pre-press, in which case you can use “convert to working space.”

6. Advanced options: (color conversion options) Engine default is Adobe ACE. Relative Colorimetric is default and provides a good color conversion.

* For the RGB Setup, experiment with choosing your own monitor profile we created with ColorSync (or Adobe Gamma).

If you’re using Illustrator 9 or 10, or Indesign, it’s a good idea to open them and match the same color settings in those programs, as the color workflow is finally coordinated between programs.

Non-adobe applications such as Quark 4 may prefer a ColorSync workflow. Be sure you are using ColorSync 3 or later.

7. Loading Color profiles from a vendor

Color profiles may be made available to you by your service bureau or printer (on a direct-to-plate job especially). The profile can be loaded into Photoshop from any location. Click the Load button in the Color Settings dialogue. Copying them first to the default profiles location is an easy way to find them.

Operating System       Copy settings files to:
Windows                Program Files/Common Files/Adobe/Color/Settings
Mac OS 9               System Folder/Application Support/Adobe/Color/Settings
Mac OS X               Users/CurrentUser/Library/Application Support/
                        Adobe/Color Settings