

NAME

DATE



Embedding

Copies the image's full pixel data into the document. File grows larger, but it never breaks if the original moves or is deleted.



Linking

Places a reference to an external file, shown at preview resolution. Keeps the .ai file small, but breaks ("missing") if the original moves, is renamed, or is deleted.



Missing / Modified (Links panel icons)

A yellow warning icon means the link is missing or the source changed since it was placed, check the Links panel regularly.



Relink

In the Links panel, points a broken link back to the (possibly moved or renamed) source file.



Edit Original

Reopens the source file in its original application. Save your change there, and the placed image updates automatically back in Illustrator.

Rule of thumb: link when file size matters and you'll keep the source nearby; embed when you need the file to never break, even if it means it's bigger.