

Photography Checklist

By Kimberly French

Preparation

- Classes** Taking a few courses at the local college or art school can make all the difference in your finished product.
- Scenery** Picking the right scene, or backdrop for the perfect picture is always a necessary thing but ensure at the same time that you and the subject will be safe.
- Cleaning** If an arranged shot is being taken of a family or person, ensure that the area is properly cleaned and safe.
- Schedule** Make sure that you allow enough time for the pictures that are going to be taken, and then allow some extra.
- Equipment** Double check all of your equipment, and ensure that it is all in good working order; it would not do to have any of it shorting out on you.

Equipment

- Digital Cameras** Using digital cameras provide some of the sharpest pictures now; do make sure that you have several sets of rechargeable batteries handy, and that your camera is in good shape.
- 35mmCameras** While 35mm cameras are slowly on their way out, they do provide some excellent pictures, and give photographers the experience of working in a different medium.
- Tripods** Always double check your tripods and see that the legs aren't stuck or anything that might cause a safety issue during the photography session.
- Film** 35Mm film is still pretty common, and can be bought in small canisters; keep it in those small canisters and when developing it, handle it with care.
- Memory Cards** Digital cameras use memory cards to hold the pictures, and allow the computer to do the editing later; handle them with care.
- Lenses** Whether choosing to use a short or a long lens to get the desired effect in a picture, always inspect them to make sure there are no defects.

Things to Plan For

- Weather** Photographing a wedding, especially outdoors, can be problematic if the weather is bad, so keep an eye on the weather report.
- Illness** Photographers are human, too, and if they're sick they're not going to do as well; have a back-up photographer just in case.
- Malfunctions** Unfortunately, equipment error does happen, so have more than one camera that can take the same picture you want.
- Curiosity** Build in some extra time for the curiosity of customers and would-be photographers, that you know you will not be able to avoid.

Things to Take

- Identification** Be able to show who you are to a customer, or just in case something happens to you.

- Cell phone** You'll need this in case something happens on your way to the customer, or you get hurt.
- Water** It's important to at least stay hydrated, and taking water with you is a great way to do that.
- Snacks** It definitely won't hurt to take some trail mix or some other snack with you, just in case there is no food available where you're going to work.
- Directions** It's a necessary thing to know exactly where you're going to safely arrive there.
- Sunscreen.** This is great for outdoor sessions, especially weddings
- Extras** Always take extras, especially of memory cards and rechargeable batteries, as a backup plan.
- First Aid** Curiosity always gets the better of people, so be prepared, and take a First Aid kit to clean them up afterward.
- Safety Issues**
 - Broken lenses** Glass on the ground does not make for safe walking, so clean it up immediately.
 - Tilted tripods** Bent legs on tripods can throw cameras off on the ground, or stick the legs into a person.
 - Cracked batteries** Batteries of any kind are dangerous when they crack open, so dispose of them immediately, in the proper way.
 - Cords** Leaving cords of any type, especially power cords, lying about is a way for anyway to trip and hurt themselves.