

Smartphone photo tips

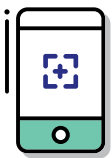
Get the most out of your smartphone photography

With recent updates in smartphone technology, you likely have the power to take high-resolution photos right in your pocket. Smartphone cameras allow you to take inspiring property photos without the expense of a professional photographer. Knowing how to get the most out of your smartphone camera puts you in a better position to create high-impact photos that convert.

In this guide:

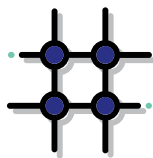
- ▶ Clarity and lighting settings
- ▶ Smartphone design guidance

Find smartphone camera settings for taking high-quality images, plus tips to compose engaging images and troubleshoot difficult set-ups. Follow this advice, and you'll be ready to take professional-level photos with a tool that's already in your hands.



Get expert photos, without a pro

Most smartphones can take high-resolution photos. Verify camera features with your manufacturer online, then follow our instructions.



Leverage your phone's tools

Turn everyday snapshots into pro-quality gallery images using smartphone composition tools and a few industry design standards.



Avoid common photo pitfalls

Don't get discouraged with difficult lighting or angles. Plan ahead to troubleshoot challenging set-ups and conditions.

Adjust your settings

Use your smartphone settings to create professional looking images. With the right settings and a few handy tips, a cell phone camera can take some fantastic photos.

Use HDR mode

Change your settings to High Resolution, High Definition, or High Dynamic Range (HDR). This will capture higher quality, clarity, color depth, and lighting than other settings. To find your HDR controls, check the heading bar of your smartphone app or go to your phone's app settings.

Image taken without HDR:



Image taken with HDR:



Adjust your exposure

Exposure is one of the best tools to enhance low-light environments. Setting the exposure higher lets more light into the lens, creating a brighter, more vibrant photo.

Exposure settings on smartphones are often identified by a sun icon next to the “autofocus tracking box.” When taking a photo, some phones let you tap your screen to focus on one area, and an autofocus box will appear to highlight the clearest part of an image. Next to that box, look for a sun icon, which you can raise or lower to adjust the exposure.

On other phones, you can hold a point on your image to focus and adjust your exposure in the same move. Some phones offer a “pro mode” in their settings that lets you adjust exposure. Play around with this feature before your photoshoot.



Keep it simple

Use natural light

If you need to take photos without sunlight, adjust your exposure instead of using the flash. If you still need additional lighting, place a thin, white sticker or piece of tissue over the flash to soften the effect.

Hold steady

Be careful not to tilt your phone forward or backward. This skews your vertical lines. Raise or lower your phone to get what you need in the frame. To keep your phone level and steady, rest it on a tripod or a stack of books.

Don't digitally zoom

The zoom feature blurs images. Instead, walk forward to capture the image you want.

Skip the filters

Resist the temptation to use photo editing apps to add filters or retouch your images. And if your camera has a Live feature that captures movement in photos, turn this off, since you will be capturing stills.



If a room is dark and you're facing a window, you often get a backlit photo. In this situation, cross the room to put the window behind you. That will fill the light in the direction you're photographing.

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Think like a designer

Use simple design principles and smartphone functions to create engaging photos. Gridlines help keep your photos straight and can make composition easier.

Gridlines

Adding gridlines to your image-viewer lets you see where straight vertical and horizontal lines appear in your photos. These lines will not appear in your photos—they just help guide your image set-up.

Photos with walls that appear on angles look distorted. Try to align the vertical and horizontal lines in the photo with the gridlines to avoid this problem.



Gridlines help you line up key focal points in your photos. Most phones allow you to turn on gridlines in the camera app settings, located in the app itself, or in your phone's general settings under Photos or Camera. Look for Grid or Gridlines, and set this feature to On.

Rule of thirds

Composition is the way that elements are arranged in an image. As a starting point for their composition, photographers often use the “Rule of Thirds.” The theory of this rule is that the human eye is often attracted to images divided into thirds, where key subjects fall on the dividing lines of those thirds. Position your primary subject at the intersection of those lines to draw in the viewer’s eye.

Use your gridlines to align your image. Then, position objects you want to highlight along the lines or at the intersection of those lines.

