

TIPS & TRICKS FOR TAKING PHOTOS

Most of us use our cameras on our phones because we have them on us at the perfect time to grab that perfect shot! Last year we had some great photos that were deemed ineligible because the quality (resolution) was too low to use. To help you out, we've compiled a quick tips and tricks guideline:

TIPS

1. Check your phone settings and choose the highest resolution option - (you can't increase the resolution of an image already taken, so will need to start with the best settings available)
2. Use your rear camera (not the front selfie camera)
3. Avoid using Snapchat - these are low resolution images
4. Keep your camera lens clean
5. When emailing images choose - 'actual size', or 'original size' so that quality is not reduced
6. If no one is in the cab of the tractor, please lower the loader to the ground - this is a health & safety standard we have adopted

TRICKS

1. Capture Multiple Shots

One of the best things about smartphone photography is that you can take as many photos as you want and there is no need to print them off to see the results. This makes it much easier to learn and improve from your results. Burst photos are good to use when using your smartphone for photography they allow you to capture multiple shots as your subject moves. Once you've taken a set of burst photos, you can then select the best shots.

2. Learn What Your Camera Can Do

Start by taking some time to find out exactly what your phone's camera is capable of. Analyse the auto mode and look at how it focuses and takes an exposure to light, this is normally done by touching the screen where you want the focus point to be, but it's good to check.

Has the camera phone got manual settings? If so, get to know them. Some cameras allow you to use more manual settings like white balance and shutter speed. These can help you to take even better photos when you know how to use them.

3. Stick To Outdoors And Use Natural Light Where Possible

Very few smartphones can produce excellent indoor shots due to their small sensors. As such, it's best to take photos outdoors in the proper lighting conditions to get better results. Lighting determines not only brightness and darkness, but also mood, tone and the atmosphere of the photo. Therefore, try and use natural light when taking photos on a smartphone.

4. Avoid Digital Zoom

Digital zoom nearly always produces poor results as it reduces the resolution of the image. Avoiding it is one of the basic photography tips for taking better photos. Optical zooms however are fine as they do not affect the quality of the photo and these are becoming more common on smartphones. If you only have a digital zoom then instead of using it, simply move closer to maintain the image quality.

5. Use HDR

HDR mode stands for High Dynamic Range, and it is increasingly common on many smartphones. It adds detail from the dark and light areas to provide better balanced exposure. In other words, it will stop the sky being too bright or the ground being too dark and really suits landscape photography. If there's a big difference between the lightest and darkest parts of your scene, using the camera phone's HDR function it's a good option.