



Tips for Taking Interior Photographs

1. **Bracket shots to compensate for bright exterior light** that will wash a room out or make your shots dark. It's best to put the camera on a tripod and bracket exposures by as much as a full stop plus and minus, varying the shutter speed – this will allow you to have an overexposed photo (regular lighted room with sun-blasted windows) and an underexposed photo (dark room). We will take both of those photos and work on them in Photoshop to merge them together and create a final photograph that allows for light coming in while at the same time giving the room the right look. There are lots of things you can adjust, and lots of combinations: open/close shades, turn lamps on/off, add lamps from other rooms, use your flash.
2. **HDR (High Dynamic Range) mode** will aid in getting the best picture with variable lighting. Many cell phone cameras have HDR mode.
3. **Find the most flattering angle.** Move around and look for pleasing angles. Shoot from several angles if you're not sure which is best, then decide later.
4. **Use a tripod**, even if it's a \$10 discount mart special. Holding the camera perfectly still will save many shots that would be ruined by a hand-held camera. If you do not have access to a tripod, place the camera on table or countertop.
5. **Use the self-timer** and let go of the camera so you don't jar it during the exposure. The timer adds a few seconds, but patience is rewarded.
6. **Avoid fluorescent lighting** which can look ugly-green on film. Mixing fluorescent with daylight (windows) and tungsten (regular light bulbs) requires some expertise, though digital cameras with automatic white balance will handle the mix better than film.
7. **Housekeeping details** will show up clearly in a photograph. Take the time to straighten furniture, drapes, linens, and brush out obvious foot tracks in pile carpet using a broom. Move trash cans and clutter out of sight.
8. **Overcast skies** can be perfect for shooting interiors: the windows look bright but not overwhelmingly so.
9. **Flash Reflections can sneak up on you.** Watch out for flash reflections in glass (picture frames, windows, mirrors). Such reflections will create intense hot spots where you didn't expect them, and will likely cause the image to be discarded.
10. **Verify your camera settings.** Today's cameras, even on cell phones, have many setting options which will help take optimal photos for your lighting and room conditions.
11. **Use minimum 5 megapixels** photo size for high resolutions photographs. This minimum resolution displays the best in various media formats.