



A PICTURE-PERFECT HOLIDAY

From the beauty of a snow-filled landscape to the joy of giving (and receiving) gifts, the holidays can be filled with images, activities and excitement worth capturing forever. Make the most of every photo opportunity and create albums you'll cherish for years to come with these simple tips and tricks:

- **Get set:** When you reach your destination or event, take a few minutes to assess factors like lighting and amount of movement. Try to find the right camera settings so you can shoot freely without having to continually stop and re-adjust.
- **Go steady:** A tripod will stabilize the camera for clear, sharp shots. (It also acts as an extra hand so no one gets left out of group photos!) Most cameras and camcorders feature a tripod socket on the bottom for quick, easy attachment.
- **Think big (and little) picture:** Take a closer look at what or who you are shooting and try to see things from a fresh perspective. Some of the most interesting pictures capture the details of a larger scene—a couple's clasped hands, a collection of snowy boots by the doorway, a calendar revealing the date.
- **Work the angles:** Aim to show a different side of your subjects. Instead of shooting faces head-on, ask friends and family members to turn their bodies slightly. Or, you take the initiative and shoot them from an unexpected vantage point. You may find that this less formal approach yields a more honest portrait.
- **Say "freeze":** Whether they're unwrapping presents, decking the halls or battling it out in the snow, your most sought-after subjects will likely be on the move this season. Want a piece of the action without the blurry effects? Use the fastest shutter speed available to freeze movement and clearly capture the background.
- **Find your place in the sun:** For great outdoor photographs, position subjects with the sun hitting their left or right side. Use your flash or "flash fill" mode to fill in dark shadows and light faces evenly. Make sure subjects aren't facing the sun to avoid squinting.
- **Make a scene:** If you're shooting landscape photos, remember that depth and texture are key. Instead of a wide, open shot of the winter sky, for example, consider adding foreground elements like a fragile tree branch or a snow-covered rooftop.
- **Buy the book:** Give yourself a post-holiday gift and let an online photo sharing service compile your album. Most offer a wide range of creative, inexpensive options, including the chance to add captions. The result is a professional-quality keepsake minus the stress—and mess.

tips

holiday photo



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