

Bumps in the Night!!!!

November 2014 Issue

Tools of the Trade

Photography 101

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Everyone knows about orbs and pareidolia and there are varying opinions on what they are or aren't. However, not much time is spent on some of the dos and don'ts of using a digital camera on an investigation. In this article we will focus on some of the key dos and don'ts that hopefully will help a budding photographer and want to take pictures during your investigations.

One of the most important dos is to make sure your camera settings are suited for the environment you will be taking the photos in before you start taking the photos. Some of the things to consider are: What shutter speed should you use?; Will you use the flash or not?; How much background lighting will there be (which will affect the photos depending on the shutter setting)?; and Do you wish to do still or motion photos? Depending on these answers will depend on what setting you should use.

To make sure your photos don't end up blurry it is recommended that you use either a tripod or a body stabilizer. This will reduce the likelihood of the camera shaking during the snapping of the photo. Some people are more stable taking photos than others so know your limits and it adjust accordingly. You especially want to be careful of this when taking photos in a low light setting, because the slightest movement can blur your photos and/or introduce flash positives.

Watch for things getting in front of the lens while taking the photos. If you have long hair you can pull it back into a ponytail. If you have a camera strap be careful so that it does not end up in front of the lens. Check where your fingers are and ensure they don't get in front of either the lens or the flash. Check for spider webs and other fibers to make sure they don't get in front of the lens. Also be careful of airborne things like dust, pollen, moisture, and bugs. Educate yourself on what these items look like on your camera so you can rule them out. Note that pictures taken in areas:

- that are dusty or with high humidity are likely to have "orbs" (dust) or "mist" (moisture).
- that have decaying under brush can give off a mist (moisture).
- with lots of plant life can have "orbs" that are just mold or pollen.

If you are using swappable lens be careful of dust getting on the lens or on the mirror in the camera. If these have this type of camera and swap out the lens during you shoot, make sure you wipe the lens down properly before taking your photos.

Be careful when taking photos near mirrors, windows, or other shiny surfaces; especially with a flash. These items can cause false positives and produce images that appear like faces or apparitions in the surface. If you wish to take photos of these area check to see how clean those area are before you start. An inappropriately cleaned window can look like a face when a photo is snapped with a flash.

The last thing to consider are things that cause a glow in the dark. Such as animals eyes, some plants, lighting bugs, and LED lights from electronics. That glowing item can appear much different on the photo.

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Some examples of false positives we are capture are:



Caption: Breathe in January



Caption: Smoke from a bonfire



Caption: Fiber from a Halloween spider web



Caption: Lens flare from car windshield

The information above are just some of the things to consider when you are preparing to start taking your photos. To learn more about this and other topics feel free to check out our [website](http://www.tntparanormal.com).

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