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# Black & White

Quick Reference Guide



### SHAPES

Shapes are a key fundamental of any composition. However, they are particularly important in black and white photography. Any scene that has strong elements of graphic shapes will be very well suited to black and white. These shapes do not have to be perfect squares and circles for example, but more of an approximate shape.



### TEXTURE

Texture is another key fundamental within black and white photography. Any scene that has strong elements of texture will be very well suited to this genre. When thinking about textures, think beyond gravel and sand and think about the likes of glass, cobwebs, dust, wood and grain. Any surface will have a unique texture and will always look great if the lighting is right.



### TONING

True black and white images are often very stark and cold. Most photographers will add a small colour tint to a black and white photograph to make it cooler or warmer. This will also add atmosphere. Toning colours that are common and easy to experiment with are sepia, blue, gold and copper.



### SILHOUETTES

Shadow and silhouettes work great in black and white as they are closely related to shape and add presence without presence and elements of form. Form is a core fundamental of black and white composition.



### SHOOT IN COLOUR OR RAW

Never shoot black and white in camera, always shoot in colour and then convert to black and white in a software program like, photoshop or lightroom. When you shoot black and white in camera, you massively reduce the digital information recorded and images will often appear grey, flat, muddy, dull and often lack tone.



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