

Wall-a-Be Reference Guide

How to Create Your Wall-a-Be



There are 3 important things to consider when taking pictures:

1. Know Your Resolution (The number of pixels in your image)
2. Watch The Light
3. Avoid Image Blur

1. Know Your Resolution

- When taking your image, use a camera with a minimum megapixel rating of 5MP, preferable more for larger wall decals.
- Set your camera at the highest resolution possible (check your manual – this is found in your menu)

2. Watch the Light

- To avoid harsh shadows across your subject's face, use one or both of the following techniques
- Position subject in indirect, even lighting, such as the open shade of a building or tree, or in the shade of an open garage door.
- Set your camera to Program or Manual to use your forced flash option to fill in shadows. To do this cycle through your flash options by pressing the flash icon on the back of your camera until you see "forced flash" or the solitary flash icon.
- Stand back and zoom in to fill frame with your subject. 6-10 feet away is a good rule of thumb.

3. Avoid Image Blur

- Stabilize your camera. Use a tripod or set your camera on a wall or table when taking the picture.
- If your camera has the option to manually set your shutter speed (typically a dSLR) set your mode dial to "TV" for shutter priority and use a shutter speed of 60 or higher. If your subject is moving, use a shutter speed of 250 or more. In this shutter priority setting the camera will automatically adjust the aperture for the proper exposure.
- If you are using a compact camera, set you mode dial to P for program. If you don't have mode dial, look in your menu settings and set it to manual. These settings will automatically adjust for the proper exposure and give you more options with your flash.
- Many new cameras come with multiple focus points. With all the focus points activated the camera typically focuses on anything that is nearest the lens and this may not be the exact of the scene you want to focus on. For example, if you're taking a portrait, your subject's nose is the closest to the lens but you may want to focus on the eyes. Make sure you are focusing on your subject's eyes by using the proper focus point on your camera. By setting your camera to use only one of the multiple focusing points, you can be very precise with your focus and gain creative control over your image.

Information provided by Erin Manning, Professional Photographer, TV Host (DIY, The Whole Picture), Author ("Portrait and Candid Photography"), and Teacher.

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