



# RAINY DAY PHOTOGRAPHY FUN

Short Guide  
By Kent DuFault

**RAINY DAY  
PHOTOGRAPHY FUN**



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# RAINY DAY PHOTOGRAPHY FUN

It's all about the light!!

How many times have we photographers heard that statement?


When you're staring at the warm glow of a sunset, it's easy to grasp that concept. However, it's much more difficult to grasp when the day is gray and dreary. On these days, we often have a tendency to leave our cameras in the camera bag and go to the movies instead.

Today we're going to explore the possibility that we may be missing out on a whole bunch of photography fun by not embracing the rainy day.

First of all, let's talk about rainy day 'light'.

Bad weather days don't bring us the kind of light that we usually seek for our photographs.

But- they do bring an unusual light, which we can put to grand use in our photography.



On rainy days,  
we often have a tendency  
to leave our cameras in the  
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Overcast days, if the cloud cover isn't too dense, provide a nice even light source which is quite flattering for many subjects- especially portraits.

*Rainy days can provide soft, even lighting, and with a healthy dose of creativity, you can create award-winning photographs that simply can't be created on a sunny day.*

The lesson here is- maybe it's not about the quantity of light, but more about the quality of light.

Variations of light quality on a rainy day can be subtle yet distinct.

*Cloud cover will often cause shifts in the color temperature of available light. Combine this with our fellow humans trying not to get wet, and you have an interesting recipe for street photography!*





Rain can also help your photographic efforts with some natural special effects, including-

- Reflections
- Increased color saturation
- Water droplets
- Artificial light combined with natural light

The more artsy you feel, the more you can combine all of the above in a single photograph.

*This photographer combined all four natural effects and rounded it off with an unusual angle and the use of a frame in the composition.*

Water droplets play a huge role in your rainy day photographic fun. They not only sit on objects like bulbous little magnifying glasses, but they can also run: creating streaks and unusual shapes.





*In order to take advantage of the magnifying affect of water droplets, you must close-focus.*

*If you don't have a macro lens, you could invest in a set of close-up filters, or a reversing ring, for just a few dollars.*

*Close-up filters are pretty self-explanatory. A reversing ring works by attaching it to your lens (where you would normally attach a filter), and using the other side of the ring to mount the lens to the camera body in reverse.*





*A reversed lens generally works best with a prime lens (not a zoom). However, they can be used with some zoom lenses as well. Another way to get a zoom lens to close-focus is by using a device called extension tubes. Extension tubes insert between the lens and the camera body.*



*This is what a set of extension tubes look like. They are generally sold in sets of three; each one having a different depth. By combining them into different variations, you can adjust how close your lens will focus.*





*This rainy day close-up was taken using extension tubes. You can see how close you can focus. This can open up an entirely new world to your camera.*



*Reflections can bring interest to an otherwise dull day. Keep your eyes open for interesting juxtapositions: these can be included in abstract or realistic style images.*





*This photograph pushes the envelope on color saturation.*

*Rain creates reflective surfaces, which bounce the color of light everywhere. This can create some really interesting effects. Remember, you must maintain composition. Take this photograph for example, if the girl was missing, and we simply saw the background and reflections, it wouldn't be nearly as strong. In fact, I think it would lose something if the girl wasn't pulling the suitcase. That suitcase helps tell a story.*

*You can almost imagine the girl briskly walking along, trying to get where she's going without getting her things wet.*





*This is a great example of a photographer making the best of a rainy day situation. The natural light is overcast and flat and the artificial lighting in the buildings creates contrast. The photographer utilized the tools of composition called 'blocks of color and repetition of shape'. Finally, the dramatic upward angle and the use of a wide-angle lens pull everything together for an effective cityscape.*

We've identified some of the ways that rain can bring something special to your images. Now let's talk about inspiration. Let's face it; it can be hard to become inspired on a gloomy day. Here are some ideas to get you out in the rain:

1. Use some interesting props (something you wouldn't normally use).
2. Get out of your comfort zone (try something new).
3. Play with your color balance (see what interesting effects you can achieve).
4. Tell a story (try to say 'rainy day' without being obvious).





5. Play with color and movement (there won't be a lot of light, so why not try some blur?).
6. Create a setting (have a story to tell... tell it wet!).
7. Use the situation to create tension (think dark, moody, and mysterious).
8. Walk the streets and look for things that are happening (some people love getting wet- and others don't).



*Use some interesting props. How about a toy, or a tool, or a piece of clothing? Let your imagination run wild. Try to come up with new ways to depict old, ordinary objects in a new setting that includes rain.*

*Get out of your comfort zone. If you're used to shooting kids, try some fashion. Whatever it is that you always do- do something different. Try to let the foul weather give you permission to get out there and test your limits. If you normally wouldn't handhold an exposure of 1 second- then do it!*





*Play with your color balance. In photography, we spend a lot of time learning how to get things looking right in our photographs. Use a rainy day as an excuse to make everything look as funky as you can. Start with your color balance. Play with the settings and try to create a mood that didn't actually exist in real life!*



*Tell a story. Look for details that inspire a rainy day story. But keep it simple. Make your viewer think and have an “uh huh” moment. Think of elements such as splashing tires or muddy boots.*



*Play with color and movement. When photographing on a rainy day, you're probably going to have low light. Why not make that the theme of your photo shoot? Look for movement and blocks of color. Turn them into a menagerie of beautiful abstract elements that say, "Hey! This was a rainy day."*



*Create a setting. Grab a few models and tell a story. Try a series of images. Create a triptych! Create a beginning, middle, and an end.*





*Use the situation to create tension. Use the low light, a funky color balance, and a gloomy setting to create images that reek of mystery. Imagine you are creating a cover for a detective novel.*





*Walk the streets and look interesting things that are happening. With rain, you often have wind, lightning, and hail; you never know what might happen or how people will react to it. You'll only know if you're out looking!*

*One of the best moments of a rainy day is when it breaks up and the sun is about to emerge. These moments are magical. They typically only last a few minutes. If you've been home all day, and the rain is starting to let up, that might be your cue to check the radar, grab your camera, and go look for an interesting subject!*

I hope you feel inspired.

Some of the most viral images on the Internet are created during foul weather. Give it a try!

Everyone at Photzy.com would love to see some of your efforts. Feel free to post your images on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/photzyweb>. If you do, we will give you kudos and hugs!





## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kent DuFault is a professional photographer and author.

You can check out his work here;

Short Stories: <http://www.amazon.com/-/e/B006RASQUI>

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# Hey there!

Let's get real for a minute... Learning photography can be super challenging! But we're here to help you every step of the way! Here are 3 of our most useful (*and FREE!*) photography resources:



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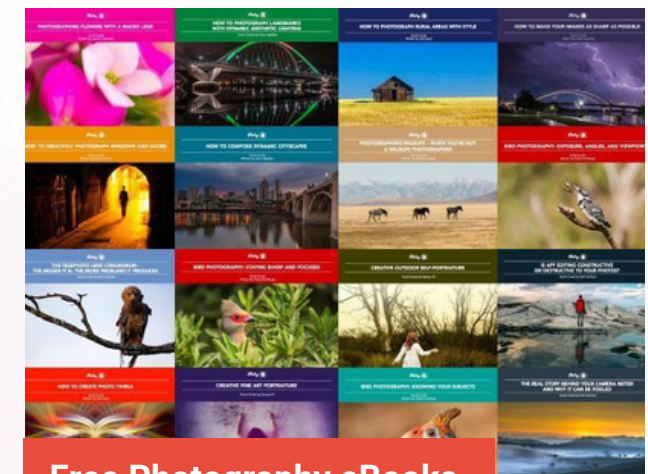
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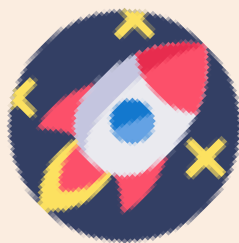
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