



When taking patient dental photos for the lab, it is essential to follow certain protocol to be able to communicate clearly. Not following these guidelines could lead to an improper restoration and much time lost for both the laboratory and practitioner. Listed below are a number of Do's and Don'ts when submitting photographs.



- Make sure patient is upright (taking pictures with patient reclined changes the lighting and shade perception).
- Make sure to get natural light in the room.
- Always take photos before any prepping of the teeth or impressions (these procedures will dehydrate the teeth).
- Use a neutral color bib if possible (Grey, Light Blue or White - no pastels).

- Do not "tuck" shade tab under lip (It is important to see the relation between the tab and the entire tooth).
- Dark photos do not communicate the correct shade.
- Blurry / Out of focus photos do not allow our technician to fully view all of the details.



7 tips for better smartphone photography

- 1. Ditch the flash.** The problem with smartphone flashes is that they change the color temperature. Also, by using a flash you run the risk of losing most of the details you would normally find in natural lighting.
- 2. Keep the lens clean.** Your pocket is not a clean place, and the grime that lives within loves to stick onto your smartphone camera lens. The result is hazy, dark photos that don't capture the image you're looking for. Use a microfiber cloth prior to taking any photos to get the best possible clarity.
- 3. Never use the mobile zoom.** Many smartphone cameras offer a digital zoom function, but even in the live view preview, you'll be able to noticeably see how images degrade the second you start to "zoom." The camera is simply guessing what the image looks like enlarged so it is not accurate.
- 4. Lock your exposure and focus.** With the default camera app, you can tap and hold on the screen to set where you want your exposure and focus. Once the box "blinks," it is locked.
- 5. No filters.** Many smartphones and apps such as Instagram have options to change the brightness, exposure, sharpness and contrast but please contain yourself from adding any filters or overly editing any of the photos. Overly exposing the photos to these options could warp the image drastically.
- 6. Keep it steady.** I think it goes without saying when taking photographs, the steadier your camera is, the clearer your picture will be. Try leaning your elbows on a sturdy surface for support to achieve a crisper image.
- 7. Bring up the resolution.** Most cameras have a setting to increase the photo resolution. As a general rule, the higher the resolution of your mobile camera, the clearer your photographs will be.