

Photographing Moving Water

Anytime you're presented with a moving subject you have two options: 1) you can freeze the motion by using a fast shutter speed, and 2) you can capture and enhance the motion by using a longer shutter speed that blurs the movement. When photographing moving water, most photographers take the second option and allow the water to blur.

Steps in photographing moving water:

- Place camera on tripod (tripod is necessary because of using slow shutter speeds).
- Set camera to either shutter or aperture priority mode and (shutter speed of 1/8 second or longer or aperture set at $f-16$ or $f-22$).
- Polarizing filter (reduces light 2 stops, cuts glare on water and saturates color). Can also use a neutral density filter to reduce light entering camera.
- Set ISO to 100 or lower (camera sensor is less sensitive to light and will require shutter to be open longer. Will also result in less "noise").
- Experiment with composition (change your viewpoint, angles and distances from the moving water and decide what landscape features to include).
- Choose best lighting (either early or late in day when lighting is less intense, and warm. Also, anytime on an overcast day).
- Wind-free conditions (important if there are trees, branches or flowers in scene).