

Tips for Backing Up Photos



By Bob Spalding

Suggestion 1: **Never backup your photos onto your computer Internal Hard Drive (HD) for long term storage.**

- An internal HD will crash; the only question is **WHEN**.
- Also depending on the size of the HD and the number of photos, it may fill up quickly.

Suggestion 2: **Always backup to an External HD** – as primary backup

- Then backup to a second External HD (secondary backup) – suggest you store in a Firebox.
- To be extra safe, backup to a third External HD and store off site or
 - To a Cloud program such as Adobe, Google, Dropbox, Amazon, etc
 - Cloud backup will offer free limited space,
 - Or a Bank Safe Deposit Box

Suggestion 3: **Backup all photos under one Folder** – Ex. Bob's Photos

- If you need to do a total backup of all your photos, then they are in one folder.
- This One Folder or Main Folder procedure is also needed for Lightroom (LR).
- Then create sub-folders under your main folder:
 - Example:

Bob's Photos (Main Folder)

- National Parks
 - Arches NP
 - Yosemite NP
- Pickens County
 - Sign Barn
 - Waterfalls

Suggestion 4: **On an overnight trip away from your main computer:**

- Copy your photos to a Laptop.
- Then backup the photos to a small External HD (primary backup).
 - Leave in a safe place where you are staying
- To be really safe, backup up again to a second small External HD
 - Carry this second drive in your camera bag.
- If you have enough memory cards for your camera, do not erase them until you get home.
- If you are flying, store one of the small External HD in your checked luggage.
- Then when you get home, copy the images to your primary External HD.

For a copy of this Tip Sheet or more Tip Sheets – see <http://www.bobspalding.net>