

Tips for Photographing Patterns



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Patterns are simply repeated shapes, colors or objects, ordered either a regular or irregular formations. Using patterns is key to good composition and when used effectively, can transform a bland photograph into something dramatic and eye catching. Patterns are all around us, in both nature and man made settings.



The key to emphasizing patterns is to isolate them from their surroundings. By excluding everything but the design, you create the illusion that the repetition is infinite, extending beyond the frame. Using a zoom telephoto lens is excellent for isolating and extracting patterns.



One of the simplest ways to produce a striking image is by filling the entire frame with a strong pattern.



Regular patterns are patterns that consist of shapes, lines or colors that repeat themselves in a strict formation. Filling the frame with clear-cut lines or consistent geometric formations lends itself to a strong, dramatic picture. It is the regularity of the arrangement of the objects that gives it such strength.



Another common use of repetition in photography is to interrupt the flow of a pattern. This will add complexity to the photo. This interruption brings an element of surprise that keeps the viewer's eye moving back and forth around the image. This is called breaking the pattern.

Patterns are everywhere from man-made to nature. You just need to train your eye to find them.

