

How to Photography Silky Smooth Water

The key to getting silky smooth water is in using a long shutter speed to capture the motion of the water. These sorts of shots are typically (though not exclusively) taken during the day, which presents a challenge that can be overcome by the use of a Neutral Density Filter

YOU WILL NEED:

- Camera
- Lens
- Batteries
- Tripod
- Neutral Density (ND) Filter(s)
- Shutter Release Cable (optional)

STEPS:

1. Set up your camera on the tripod.
2. If you're shooting during the day, put your ND filter on the lens.
3. Frame the shot so your composition is set the way you want it.
4. Lock your focus and then put the lens into manual focus so that you do not have to re-focus every shot.
5. Set your ISO to your lowest ISO setting (typically 100, but sometimes 200)
6. Set your Shutter Speed to 1/2 second (this is a starting point)
7. Set your Aperture to obtain a "0" exposure on the exposure indicator
8. Take a test shot of the scene.
9. Check the shot.
 - 9.1. If the water looks smooth enough, and the exposure looks good, you're all set!
 - 9.2. If the water isn't smooth enough, you need to use a longer Shutter Speed
10. Adjust your settings for a longer Shutter Speed
 - 10.1. Adjust the Shutter speed so that the exposure indicator reads "+1"
 - 10.2. Adjust the Aperture to bring your exposure indicator back to "0"
11. Take another test shot.
 - 11.1. If the water looks smooth enough, you're all set!
 - 11.2. If the water isn't smooth enough repeat step 10