

What are some uses of neutral density filters?



Most photographers use standard neutral density filters to cancel out strong light so they can take longer exposures.

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Most photographers use neutral density filters when they want to slow down waterfalls or blur out backgrounds. In order to make water look silky smooth, you have to use a fairly slow shutter speed. If it were early in the morning, a time when light tends to be faint, there would be no problem using your lens without a filter. But when the light is much more direct and intense, you run the risk of overexposing your photo.

The same goes with taking portrait pictures. There are times when you will want to draw more attention to your subject by blurring out the background. To do that, you need to use a wide aperture. If your camera doesn't allow you to use a super-fast shutter speed (like 1/000s) to block out some of that extra light, you will end up with an image that is too bright. The neutral density filter blocks out light from all wavelengths, giving you a darker picture overall.