

Simple Steps for Sorting Printed Photos



The ABCs of Photo Organization

Deciding what to keep can be overwhelming. Following a few simple guidelines can make this process easier and I rely on the ABCs of photo organizing to stay on track.

A stands for Album

These photos are the most important and belong in an album. It's important to understand that not all photos need to go in an album. The ones you choose are often the most personal, and cherished. Less is more!

B stands for Box

Photos that are important enough to keep should be stored in archive quality boxes for long term storage, or backed up thoroughly if digitized.

C stands for Can

These photos can go in the 'trash can' or your delete file. Toss duplicates, blurry or unflattering photos, excess scenery photos, etc.

S stands for Story

This is the most important part. Does the photo tell a STORY! Keep any photos that clearly tell a story. An old blurry photo may have your Dad's first car in the background! Be careful you aren't tossing history.

Sorting Photos

Our natural tendency is to sort chronologically, but with today's high volume of photos it can be overwhelming. Whether you are organizing printed or digital photos, the process is always the same. Choose to organize in themes that represent your life.

Weddings, Vacations, Sports, Heritage, By Child, Pets, School, Christmas, Birthdays

These are just a few examples, and themes will vary from one family to the next. Themes can also be sorted in chronological order for easy access.

Safeguarding your photos

With today's rapidly changing technology, protecting our photos continues to be a challenge. The experts recommend that you back up photos in 3 ways.

2 Computer sources

Besides the computer drive that your images are stored on, you should have an external hard drive where your photos are backed up regularly. Two computer locations will ensure your photos are safe in the event of a computer crash, and easily restored.

CD/Picture Keeper Backup

Schedule a monthly backup reminder and store images on Archival CDs. These types of disc are high quality and designed for long term, stable storage. The likelihood that disc's will be readable 10 years from now are high. Even today, we are transferring obsolete media into current readable forms easily. Picture Keeper is a space saving device that has built in software that intuitively seeks out your digital images from your PC or MAC. This USB flash drive is small enough to store in a safety deposit box outside of your home.

Online Storage

Appo recommends storing your 'A photos' with an offsite service, known as cloud storage. I can recommend a cloud based storage system that offers the security you need plus the added advantage of unlimited photo storage and accessibility from many devices for easy, private sharing.

Print your photos

This is by far the safest and most reliable form of back up. Getting your printed photos into albums, or printed photo books is the best way to ensure that your photos will survive technology changes and cloud storage. Everyone will still have 'eyes' 50 years from now, but technology will be vastly different.

If photo organizing feels overwhelming to you, or you simply don't have the time, I can provide this service for you. I can recommend products for you to use and have several time packages available that may suit your needs and budget.



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