

## No Such Thing as Bad Weather in Street Photography

In street photography, weather shouldn't dictate our desire to make photos; instead, it should fuel it. As I've come to see it, *there's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing*. Rain doesn't have to be an obstacle; in fact, it can be an invitation to capture the streets in ways that sunny days can't offer. Armed with the right gear and a willingness to explore, rainy days become rich opportunities to see, slow down, and create.

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### Rainy Day Essentials

The beauty of rainy day street photography begins with preparation. Proper gear can transform a rainy day from frustrating to freeing, allowing you to get out there and shoot comfortably. Here's a quick list of my go-to essentials:

- **Raincoat:** Keeps you dry and hands-free, letting you move without hassle.
- **Hat:** Prevents rain from dripping into your eyes, keeping your vision clear.
- **Umbrella:** If you're shooting with a non-weather-sealed camera, like the Ricoh GRIII, an umbrella is a simple yet critical addition.
- **Gore-Tex Shoes:** Essential for staying dry as you navigate puddles and wet sidewalks.

I keep my **Ricoh GRIII in P mode** while holding the umbrella with one hand, staying ready to shoot even in a downpour. This setup isn't weather-sealed, but with careful handling, it works perfectly fine.

### Embracing Rain for Unique Visuals

Rain brings the streets to life with reflective surfaces, moody atmospheres, and a slower, more deliberate rhythm. **Overcast skies act like a natural softbox**, diffusing light evenly across the scene and creating a beautiful backdrop for high-

contrast, black-and-white photography. The reflections off wet surfaces and the textures that emerge in low light give even the most mundane scenes a new sense of depth and mystery.

*“There’s always something to photograph despite the weather. Rainy days just have a way of bringing out textures, layers, and reflections that you’d otherwise miss.”*

By sticking to **black-and-white settings**, I’m able to strip the scene down to its essential elements—lines, shapes, shadows—allowing the subtleties of rain-soaked streets to shine. With **high contrast** and small JPEGs, I capture what matters without overthinking technicalities. *The rain changes things, and it encourages me to photograph instinctively, with a sense of flow.*

### **Exploring New Locations in the Rain**

Rain also creates a good excuse to explore locations I might otherwise skip on a clear day. In Philadelphia, I often find myself underground or along quieter, covered areas where light sneaks in through tunnels and passageways. The city’s underground spaces offer surprising pockets of light, rich textures, and reflections, each corner transformed under the rain’s influence.

Rain invites us to approach familiar routes with fresh eyes. My regular paths, like the **river trail and Market Street**, reveal themselves differently each time it rains, keeping my vision sharp and my curiosity active. In these moments, I’m reminded that the goal is always to stay open to what unfolds.

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### **Capturing the Rhythm of the Streets**

One of the best parts of shooting in the rain is the distinct rhythm it brings to the streets. People move with purpose, creating natural frames as umbrellas open and close and footsteps splash along the pavement. It’s a dance on concrete, and the

slower I walk, the more I notice. When I tune into this rhythm, I can see the little things that make a rainy day special—the changing light, the softened sounds, the layered reflections.

*“Rain changes the rhythm of the streets. People move purposefully, umbrellas creating natural frames and silhouettes.”*

Moving slowly in the rain means seeing more, and seeing more means making more photographs. Using **P mode**, I let the camera handle the settings so I can respond quickly to what’s happening around me. There’s no need for perfection here—just a willingness to move, adapt, and follow where the rain leads.

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### **Navigating Trends and Staying Curious**

In street photography, rainy day images often come with their own set of trends: umbrellas, moody shadows, silhouettes. While these motifs are common, I like to challenge myself to look past them, letting curiosity guide my shots rather than seeking what’s expected.

*“I think it’s best to approach each scene without preconceived notions... remaining in a pure state of curiosity and letting the day’s conditions shape the work naturally.”*

Through rainy day photography, I’m constantly reminded to strip down to the basics and to keep shooting. Each day presents new details, textures, and opportunities, especially in a city like Philadelphia where rain brings out the best in the architecture, riverside paths, and quiet pockets.

### **Working with Imperfections and Going with the Flow**

One of the most liberating aspects of photographing in the rain is that it's not about perfection. The rain encourages a snapshot aesthetic, where I let go of control and embrace the *imperfect, spontaneous elements* that unfold in front of me. It's about staying open to imperfections and working with what's there, rather than forcing a shot.

*"No matter the conditions, there's always a photograph waiting to be made."* By working with the scene as it unfolds, I can get lost in the process without feeling the need to over-compose or overthink.

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### **Rainy Day Photography: A Challenge Worth Taking**

Rainy days are a challenge, but they're also one of the best times to shoot. The simplicity of walking with a camera, umbrella in hand, and staying curious about what's around each corner keeps the experience alive. Each scene is a reminder that rainy days bring out the unexpected, and that's where the real beauty lies.

For any street photographer looking to push their craft, *don't let a little rain hold you back*. Instead, suit up, hit the streets, and embrace the rain's rhythm. There's no better way to find beauty in the everyday.