

Okay, I'll admit it ... I cheated and used AI for this information. I'm not a fan of AI, but this was a pretty comprehensive compilation of criteria you can use to help you make those tough decisions on which photos you should toss. And they make perfect sense!

In the [ABCs photo organizing system](#), "C" stands for **Can**, as in the trash can. These are the photos you can safely discard or delete. The goal is to be ruthless and eliminate 80-90% of your collection to focus on the best images.

And by the way ... this system can be used for both your printed photos as well as your digital ones.

Criteria for "C" Photos

When selecting photos for the "C" category, look for the following types of images:

Duplicates, Triplicates, and Very Similar Shots

Keep only the best version of a photo (often an "A" or "B" photo) and trash the rest.

Poor Quality Photos - Discard photos that are:

- Blurry or out of focus
- Badly lit (too dark or too bright)
- Poorly composed (e.g., heads cut off, bad angles)
- "Duddy" or unflattering shots (nobody wants to see themselves in unflattering shots)
- Accidental shots or "temporary" photos (e.g., a picture to get an opinion on something that you now no longer need)



Meaningless or Generic Shots

- Excessive photos of the same scenery (e.g., a dozen or more pictures of the same sunset).
- Photos of people you no longer know or remember.
- Random food photos or insignificant object photos that don't tell a story.
- Photos with no personal significance that don't fall into the "A", "B", or "S" (Story) categories.

Tips for an Effective Culling Process

Trust Your Instincts

Your initial reaction is often the most genuine. If a photo doesn't immediately spark joy or a memory, it's likely a "C".

Be Brutal and Goal-Oriented

Remind yourself that the purpose of this step is to concentrate your time and effort on saving the photos that truly matter. Aim to discard a large percentage of your collection.

Don't Discard Immediately

If you're hesitant, set aside the "C" pile and mark your calendar to review it again in a few months. If you still don't feel a connection to them, then you can confidently delete or trash them.

Prioritize "A" and "S" Photos First

By first identifying your "Album-worthy" (A) and "Story-telling" (S) photos, the "C" photos will become easier to spot as everything else is essentially extra or low-quality filler.

Don't Overthink It

The process can be overwhelming if you get bogged down in decisions. Work quickly through batches of photos, focusing on clear criteria.

<http://smartworksinc.ca/organize-your-photos/>