

Cleaning a sensor

- Learn by watching a video on sensor cleaning before attempting first cleaning.
- Equipment required
 - Good size blower
 - Sensor loupe
 - Sensor brush
 - Clean sensor swabs (sized to suit sensor size)
 - Sensor cleaning fluid
- Hygiene
 - Turn camera off before removing lens
 - Hold camera down to prevent dust entering
 - Only change lens when necessary, and when there is only minimal dust present.
 - Change lens quickly.
- Checking for sensor dust.
 - Clean sensor using the camera's function
 - Make sure lens is clean of any dust.
 - Take an out of focus image of a clean white surface or blue sky, use high f stop eg f22
 - Examine image on LCD screen, enlarge image and move view window systematically across the whole sensor.
 - Dust on sensor will be easily seen as an unsightly blob.
- Cleaning sensor
 - Step 1
 - If using a DSLR lock mirror up for sensor cleaning – see camera user manual
 - Remove lens
 - Use a good size blower to blow sensor, don't let the blower touch the sensor, keep camera tilted downwards.
 - Replace lens
 - Check sensor for dust as per instructions above.
 - Step 2
 - Lock mirror up if necessary
 - Remove lens
 - Use sensor loupe to examine sensor, you should be able to see offending dust.
 - Use sensor brush to remove or loosen dust.
 - Use blower
 - Examine sensor through loupe if dust seen repeat instructions above.
 - Replace lens
 - Check for sensor dust as per instructions.
 - Step 3
 - If dust or dirt remains on sensor then this is sticky dust which requires a wet process to shift.
 - You will need at least two cleaning swabs, and some sensor cleaning solution.
 - Place a very small amount of cleaning fluid onto a swab
 - Hold the swab on an angle and swipe left to right, change the angle then swipe right to left. Do this only once. This method ensures that both surfaces of the swab are used. Do not reuse either surface as you may recontaminate the sensor with dirt already lifted.
 - Using a new dry swab repeat the instruction immediately above. This is to allow the dry swap to remove any fluid left on the sensor.
 - Check sensor through loupe, if dirt remains repeat above instructions using clean swabs.
 - Repeat until sensor appears clean through loupe.
 - Replace lens
 - Check for dust as instructed