Burst Photo Submission Guide

Or how I learned to love stock photography and share my gift with the world.

BURST QUICK REFERENCE

What we are looking for

- JPG format
- Photography (no graphics at this time)
- High image quality

When reviewing images our team is also looking at:

- Exposure
- Lighting
- Focus
- Color Grading
- Composition
- POV/Angle/Perspective
- Burst Usability

What we are NOT looking for

- Images that require a legal model or location release
- Images that contain a watermark or copyright
- Images that require editing to remove branding or logo
- Images that contain content inappropriate for Burst

If one of your images was not selected it does NOT mean it is not an amazing photograph! It is just not a perfect fit for the Burst library at this time or needs a little editing before being re-submitted. Check out our full guidelines in the following pages of this document.

What is Burst?

Burst is a free stock photo site powered by Shopify with thousands of high quality, downloadable and fully-licensed images. (read our license page for more info). Our goal is to empower designers, developers, bloggers and entrepreneurs to create stunning websites and marketing campaigns. Creators are free to use these pictures for just about anything — blogs, online stores, school projects, social media posts, email marketing campaigns, and more!

Images featured on Burst have been spotted on products, posters, online ads, book covers and even on billboards. There's nothing that makes us prouder than watching how far our images go. And now we want to give you the chance to feel that.

We're looking for high-resolution, professional images that can be used by designers, developers, bloggers and entrepreneurs. The subject matter is up to you! Places, animals, nature, textures, food, work - if it's a compelling photograph, we want to see it!

Benefits of sharing images on Burst

When you share an image on Burst, you're helping to support a community of artists, bloggers, designers and entrepreneurs and giving them the creative tools they need. If you're anything like us, you've got a hard-drive full of gorgeous images - why not see how far those images can go?

Sharing - Every day we share our work, stories, faces and lives with our communities on social media. Sharing your work allows you to connect with peers in your industry and offers business opportunities that might not otherwise be available.

Promotion - Once you've been approved, we'll set-up a profile page featuring your name, bio, contact information and a showcase of your work. This provides exposure to the millions of artists and entrepreneurs who visit Burst every day and the opportunity to network with Burst's community of freelancers and business-owners. We also often profile our contributors in emails going out to our users. Traffic to the photographers website and hiring opportunity skyrockets. Sky. Rockets.

Reach - Burst offers exposure to a massive audience for your work. With a focus on small business, entrepreneurs and creators - we provide a unique opportunity to connect with an audience as innovative and diverse as our photographs. Join our community for the chance to showcase your photography to the Burst creative community.

SEO - In the last year, Burst has grown from a small collection of images created by our team to thousands of images created by photographers in all parts of the world. When you submit your photos to Burst you're putting them in the hands of Shopify's top-notch SEO team. This means your photographs will show up in more search results.

Profile - Once you've been approved, you'll be given a profile page that will allow you to showcase your images. This page will be equipped with a small bio, a banner of a favourite Burst photo and a link to your own website, blog or social media profile. Profile pages on Burst allow clients and employers to find you more easily, view a sample of your work and show that you have experience working in a professional setting. It's also a great way to drive more traffic to your blog or social media profile.

BURST

Search free photos

All photos   Popular collections   Tips ▾   Business ideas

Brodie Vissers

My photography is inspired by exploration – traveling, connecting with different cultures, and capturing people's passions. I currently specialize in lifestyle product photography, storytelling projects, and I'm deeply involved in the specialty coffee industry.

Visit website   Hire photographer

Technical requirements

In general the higher the quality of the image the better and easier for our users to download and create with. Please do not scale up the photo because the image loses noticeable quality when doing so.

Resolution: 12 megapixels +

Image file dimensions: at least 1920 pixels along the longest side of the image.

Format: JPG (images) or MP4 (cinemagraphs)

Please make sure images are saved for web or converted to sRGB for the best color results for viewing on web browsers.

Legal (the short version)

- These images are created by you and you have full rights to claim them as your own work (you did not take this from someone else).

- To let Burst use these images under the Creative Commons Zero License. We will give you credit on our site with your images. Images are available for download, reuse and editing and no attribution is required by users.

- That your images do not contain any immoral content and would not show anyone represented in the image in a negative way.

- You have permission to use the image if it contains a person's face or location that is identifiable (signed release).

Legal (the long version)

- Burst Terms of Service - 5. Uploading Photos

- You will have to read and agree to the full Terms Of Service upon application and submission of your first photos to Burst. If you do not agree your images will not be considered for publishing.

Models and releases

If a person is clear and recognizable in an image (their face can be seen or a tattoo or an identifiable scar) they must understand that they are in the image and it will be used with a Creative Commons Zero license.

Currently Burst is NOT accepting images that feature models or require releases.

If their face is shown from the bottom edge of the nose down, the back of their head or is blurry or distant enough not to be recognizable, images may be accepted for review.

Burst also runs a Diversity Tagging Program in which tags having to do with race/ethnicity, age, gender or sexuality will only be added to images if the model has self-identified as such. Currently this option is only in place for images taken by our internal photography team. If you would like to learn more please read our commitment to inclusion.

Location releases

If you shoot in a specific shop, restaurant or home that could be identified in the image you will want to make sure it is understood that this location may be seen in images available online with a Creative Commons Zero license. This does not apply to public spaces but if you shoot in a restaurant or bar you may want to make sure they are comfortable with being included in the image before it is published. If the location is not identifiable in the image due to specific signage or a business name the image can be used. Burst will make sure you understand this or have permission before images are accepted.

Logos and brands

If an image contains a logo or brand it cannot be used. These logos can however be edited out of the images before submitting so they are usable. This includes visible logos on clothing, business signs, or any branding that is not associated with a location that has signed a release. If there is clearly a logo but it is out of focus the image may be usable. Even license plates on vehicles should have the numbers removed before submitting.

What we are looking for and what we are not

Burst is built for designers, creators and entrepreneurs, so we strive for content that's adaptable to a wide range of work. We're looking for images that are easily editable, can have text added to them, have interesting textures or are stylistically unique. If your photo looks like something that could be used in web design, marketing campaigns, or print ads - send it in!

Burst is also a space for professional, high quality images. This means images should be taken on a professional camera (not a smartphone) and be skillfully edited with good composition, color and exposure.

At this time, we are only accepting photographs. We are not currently accepting submissions for vectors, illustrations, logos, icons and other graphics

High definition images

✓

Upres'd or compressed

✗

Proper focus

✓

Out of focus

✗

Clear image

Noisy or grainy images

Proper exposure

Over or under exposed

Proper lighting for the subject

✓

Insufficient lighting

✗

Thoughtful composition

✓

Lack of composition and care

✗

Logos or brands removed

Logos or brands present

Proper color grading

Filters, borders or over editing

DANCE

Photography

✓

Graphic designs

✕

Simple cinemagraphs (.mp4)

✓

Full video files

✕

Requires model release

Fine to submit without release

**Requires location release**

Fine to submit without release

Popular Images - HINT

Below are some examples of our most downloaded images as well as a few of our most searched terms in case you are looking for inspiration or happen to have some great images that would work sitting on a hard drive at home not being loved like they would on Burst.

Flatlay Composition

Negative Space for design or text
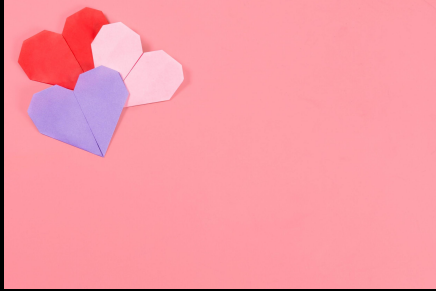
Images that tell a story or relate to a theme

Horizontal images are most popular for web design

Entrepreneurial focus - think small business

Holidays and Seasonal

Please submit at least 8 weeks prior to the holiday date when possible to ensure it is available on the site well in advance.

Top searched words

Don't know what to shoot or what to start looking for? Here are some of the most searched for terms on our site. Start here!

Winter/Spring/Summer/Fall	Construction	Beach/Holiday
Fashion	Dog/Cat/Pets	Student/School/Education
Nature	Health/Fitness/Running	Food/Pizza/Dessert
Business/Office	Medical/Doctor/Hospital	Background
Money/Finance	Flowers	City
Technology	Travel/Adventure	House/Home
Wedding/Couple/Love	Holidays (Seasonal)	People (Woman/Man/Kid/Baby)

Tagging and image descriptions

Burst takes great pride in helping its users find the right image for the right project, so we'll handle all the tagging and description writing for your photographs. Unlike on other sites (where you're expected to add tags and keywords in order to be found), the Burst team names, tags and describes each image for you. We do this for the sake of keeping the images organized and easy for users to find. Think of us as a matchmaker for your images and the creators who want to use them.

Once you submit your photographs, you can leave the rest of the work to us. If the image is selected for Burst, we'll take on naming, describing and adding tags for you.

When it comes to tags associated with age, gender, race/ethnicity or sexuality on images with a recognizable person in it, please see both our Commitment to Inclusion and the legal section to learn more about our Voluntary Self Identification Form available for models.

FAQ

Can I share images here and share or sell elsewhere too?
Sure! As long as they are your images and you have the rights to do so.

I submitted my images, but have not heard back. Whatsupwithdat?
We receive a lot of submissions. If you have not heard back from us yet, you will! We will be in touch as soon as we can to let you know if we will accept your images and start sharing them with the world.

My images were not accepted, why?
We hold a high standard for our collection that we are very proud of. Not accepting your image could mean a lot of things. File size is too small, composition is not a good fit or there is a pesky logo in there we cannot use. Please don't take it personally! Check out the guidelines above for the most common reasons an image would or would not be accepted.

This all sounds great, where do I submit?
By simply clicking the Apply Now button on our contributor page, filling out the form and sending up to ten images for review!