

So how does depth of field work?

It's all to do with how much light enters your camera and the type of lens that you use. Basically, there are 3 factors that determine the depth of field in your images;

Focal length of the lens

To put it simply, the shorter the focal length, the greater the DOF (or more of the image will be sharp). I.e., 16mm = More in focus, 400mm = less in focus. When I do a lot of interior work with an ultra wide angle, I generally use f8 or f11 as I know this will suffice for the image quality I need with this lens.

Distance between camera and subject

If you photograph your subject sitting on a wall about 20-30 meters away or more, and using a wide angle or standard lens, you can almost guarantee that a lot of your image will be in focus whatever the aperture (within reason). However, bring the subject closer to say 2 meters, and the camera will focus on the subject but will more than likely throw the background into blurred oblivion.

Aperture setting

The aperture setting has the largest factor in determining the depth of field of your images. Just remember that f4, 3.5 or 2.8 (or bigger) will have shallow or little DOF whereas F8, 11, 16 or smaller, will have greater DOF. This is particularly true if you are doing close up work, a large aperture close up will have **very little** in focus.