

## **Passport Lighting 101**

## Keys to consistent passport photo lighting

## **Shooting Environment**

Possibly the most critical decision you can make to consistently take great passport photos is the lighting environment you choose to install the backdrop. Photography is considered the art of painting with light. You are now an artist and need to consider what type of light you bring into the scene. You will want to avoid outdoor lighting, direct overhead lighting, and multiple lighting sources. The best place to set up your passport studio is in a dimly lit location.

## Light is color

Various sources of light have different temperatures, which show up in your photos as shades of color. If you look at the diagram on the right, you can see the different color profiles of different types of light. The camera is set to see the color of the camera flash. If your scene is exposed to outdoor lighting by a window, you may get shades of orange or pink. Photographers overcome this by adding big powerful flash strobes to overpower the natural lighting. The CFS Passport systems rely on one small flash that cannot flood the scene with enough light to overpower these colors. Similarly, if you set it up directly under a light fixture, it will cast the color of the bulb in that fixture. Setting up in a dimly lit environment allows the camera flash to overpower all other light sources, giving you consistent natural lighting across the whole photo.



