**How to Choose the Right Gray BD Background**



***Complement Your Subject with the Right Shade of Gray***

Gray backgrounds are versatile, timeless and often the first seamless backdrop in a photographer's collection. And gray is just gray, right? Well… not exactly.

The best way to categorize BD’s 13 shades of gray is by color temperature. Where there is proportionately more blue we think of a color as being “cool”, and where there is more yellow (opposite of blue) we think of the color as being “warm”. When there is no single predominant hue we get a true neutral – white, gray or black. Neither warm nor cool, true neutrals have no temperature or “color cast”.

These same color temperature principles to your model’s skin tones.

*Warm complexions have yellow, peachy or golden undertones.  
Cool complexions have pink, reddish or blue undertones.  
Neutral skin tones have a greenish/olive undertone, or a combination of warm and cool undertones.*

Now that you understand color temperature for backgrounds and skin tones, you can choose the best background to complement your subject.

A warm complexion can look sickly against a cool, bluish, contrasting background. Instead try that same warm complexion on a background with a peachier hue and the subject will look much healthier and more. Likewise, very fair complexions with bluish undertones look best on cool backgrounds as warm backgrounds tend to be less flattering, causing the subject to appear too pale.

***Guide to Grays***

Here’s a helpful guide to the three categories on BD Gray Background Paper

Warm Grays

Ermin Gray, Silver Gray, Photographer’s Gray, Pursuit Gray, Soft Gray, Blu-Gray & Dark Gray.



Neutral Gray

Plaza Gray



Cool Grays

Steel Gray, Stone Gray, Dark Gray & Gray Stone.



Flatter your subject’s beautiful skin by choosing a background that complements their complexion rather than contrasting it.