



Ron Angle
Angle Drone Solutions

Can I get good quality drone photos during the winter for my listings?

This is a question I often asked, and not just from realtors. The answer is if you are willing to make some adjustments, you can.

The most obvious issue is the landscaping is not going to look the same. Snow might be covering the ground and the roof. Trees will have lost their leaves. The grass, if you can see it, won't be as green, and skies tend to be darker/grayer than in the summer. The good news is, Photoshop allows your provider to replace the sky and brighten most aspects of the property.

One of the biggest adjustments you may have to make is to your schedule. Winter weather flying can be difficult, and I'll get into a couple of the main issues: temperature and wind.

Most drones have an operating range of 14 to 104 degrees F. Experienced pilots know that if the aircraft starts at room temperature in their car, the ambient temperature they start at can be less. One problem is the pilot is out in this weather, very often with their hands exposed to the elements. At lower temperatures, with only a slight breeze, that exposed skin can get cold fast and frostbite quickly. I have personally flown at -10 degrees F and after 10 minutes had to quit due to discomfort. During that flight, the battery temperature dropped almost 40 degrees. Since I only needed a couple of shots, this was enough time, but extending the flight longer would have put the flight at risk. Don't expect lots of pictures when the temperature goes down. Most pilots will want to wait for better temperatures so they can take their time to ensure they get all the pictures you need.

Winds are another complicating factor during the winter. Most drones will hold their position over the ground with a wind up to 20 MPH. Once this wind speed is exceeded, you run the risk of seeing some drifting in any stationary footage shot from the drone. If pictures are all you need, you can usually get away with about 25 MPH without any concerns. Again, if the temperature is down, no way is anyone going to want to fly on a windy day.

In summary, work with your drone pilot on timing so they can take advantage of the best weather to take your photos. They can then post-process them using Photoshop or similar software, giving you the best possible results. Although the trees might not have leaves on them, the house will look beautiful.

Ron
Ron Angle
President
Angle Drone Solutions Inc.
222 East 9th Street, Unit 2
Lockport, Illinois 60441
www.angledronesolutions.com
ron@angledronesolutions.com