

Megapixels versus Print Size

The Megapixel capacity of your camera is calculated by the number of Pixels used at the capture stage of your image

Hence if your image capture size for the longest side of the image is 3800 pixels whilst the short side is 2600 pixels when multiplied together they give you 9880 pixels or 10 Megal Pixels. As 10 Megapixels could be reached by any combination of figures (5000 pixels & 2000 pixels for instance) you cannot calculate the image size from Megapixels alone. Some cameras denote the image size somewhere in the menu or you can check the image size in Photoshop.

Naturally, the higher the resolution of your file then the better print quality of your image will be, and that print quality is linked directly with your megapixels.

10 Megapixels will give quality image prints up to 18 x 12 inches (46cm x 30.5cm) produced from a standard inkjet printer printing at 200 pixels per square inch.

With 24 Megapixels you can push the image size up to 30 x 20 inches (76cm x 51cm) once again using a standard inkjet printer printing at 200 pixels per square inch.

Moving onto a 60 Megapixels camera (normally a medium format Phase One SLR) then the world is your oyster and you will be looking at image sizes of 45 inches x 34 inches – but would your printer, unless it is a top of the range Epson or Canon, cope with that paper size!

Obviously, if your camera memory is lower than 10 megapixels, then the respective sizes are as follows.

2 Megapixels will give a 5 x 4 inch print of good quality
3 megapixels will give a 7 x 5 inch print of good quality
4 Megapixels will give an 8 x 6 inch print of good quality
5 Megapixels will give an 8.5 x 6.4 inch print of good quality
6 megapixels will give an 11.5 x 8.5 inch (A4) print of good quality.

With these smaller megapixels sizes do not attempt to print larger than A4 otherwise you will notice serious degradation of your print quality.