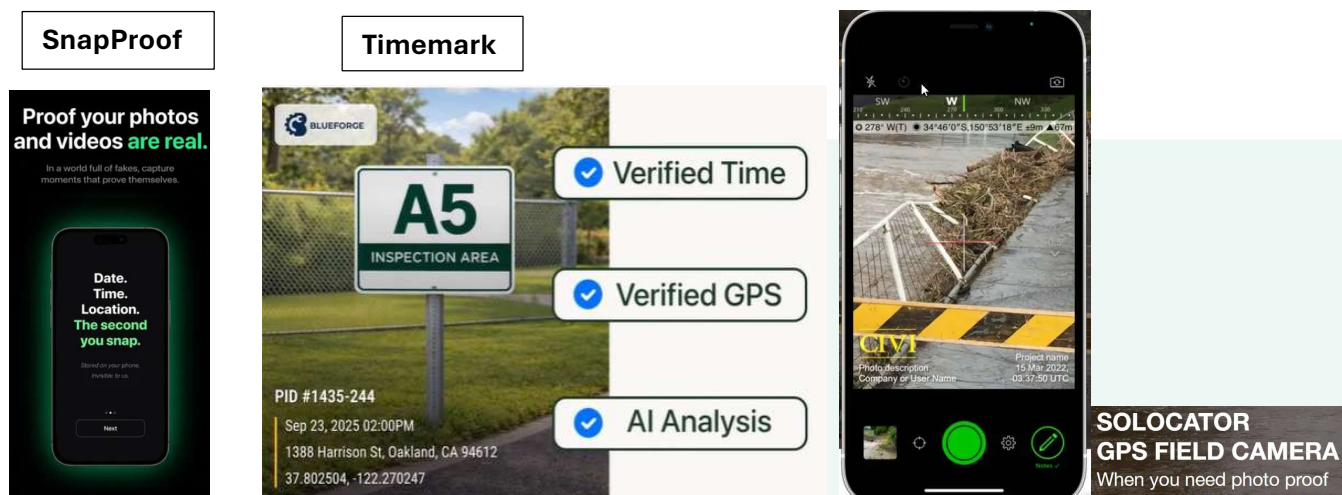


# Why You Should Always Time & GPS Stamp Photos in Water Mitigation

Time & GPS stamping your photos when mitigating a water loss is critical to prove pre-existing conditions and to protect you and your company when there are allegations you caused mold or spread asbestos fibers, lead paint dust, or mold spores. Making sure your photos are time and GPS stamped also will help document initial conditions vs. conditions when mitigation starts if there is some type of delay, which could be very important when determining long-term damage or category of water if we think it could have deteriorated due to time.

There are many options, like SnapProof, DateStamper, Time Stamp Camera, Timemark, or Solocator, etc. that make it easy to provide more details to your photos. Remember, many times the first responder, **the restorer, is the one that everyone depends on to provide accurate documentation that tells the story of the loss, including the timeline.** There could even be legal ramifications where your detailed photos could save everyone thousands of dollars and minimize disputes. **It is all about the documentation and time & GPS stamping your photos is just one more way to build a defensible claim file that protects all materially interested parties.**



Here are some tips for time & GPS stamping your photos:

1. **Use apps that place date, time, latitude, longitude, and street address** directly on the image itself. This guarantees the data survives no matter how the files are shared.
2. **Tell a visual story** by first taking wide shots to establish the location/context, followed by medium shots of the damaged area, and finally close-ups of specific details.

3. **Photograph the source of the issue** (e.g., origin of loss, pre-existing damages). In close-up shots of the damage, **include a ruler or tape measure** so adjusters have a clear sense of scale.
4. **Include photos telling the whole story of your mitigation process** by including photos of extent of initial damages in every affected room, photos of selective invasive investigation, before & after any demolition, initial equipment setup, containment, negative air pressure setup, readings, including final moisture content readings, and final photos showing a clean, organized work site with no trash, dust or debris left onsite.
5. **Make sure to label your photos with claim # and brief description**, e.g., Living room/Wall 1, Drywall Reading, etc.
6. **Make sure your app supports C2PA Standards.** The C2PA (Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity) is an open technical standard that verifies the origin, creator, and editing history of digital content (images, video, audio, and documents). Often referred to as Content Credentials, it acts like a cryptographic "nutrition label" to combat digital manipulation and misinformation.
7. **Always retain the original RAW image file**, which contains your camera's exact, unedited data. If someone manipulates a copy of your photo and claims it as their own, having the original RAW file is definitive proof that you are the original owner.

**In summary**, look for ways to strengthen your file to prove you followed the industry standard, including documenting your photos to tell your story timeline to prevent allegations of causing damages. **Time & GPS Stamping is an inexpensive way to improve your photo documentation.**

## MEET ED

Instructor Ed Jones has more than 30 years of experience in the industry, has the title of Master Water Restorer, is an Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC)–approved instructor, and has served on the S500–2021 consensus body committee to develop the most recent standard.



*Happy Drying! Ed*

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