Water resistance changed how I used my phone

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It's surprising how small features can make such a massive difference when using a mobile phone.

When smartphone cameras started to challenge, and even overtake, point and shoot cameras in terms of quality, the way we thought about mobile phone cameras fundamentally changed.

The oft-repeated cliche is that the best camera you have is the one you have on you. And for a while, smartphone cameras were just that. They were just the cameras you always had on you.

As they became great cameras in their own right, the camera you always had on you was actually the best camera most people owned. This paradigm shift spawned photo sharing apps like Instagram, and made Facebook central to the way we share photos today. Consumers began making phone choices based on the camera above most other features.

Now, as water resistance is becoming the norm for phones, we're seeing similar surprising effects. I'd heard horror stories from friends who'd accidentally dropped their phone in the sink doing the dishes, or more terrifying, in the toilet. That never happened to me, so I never thought I'd care about my phone becoming water resistant.

But then I started using a water resistant phone, and it fundamentally changed the way I used it – especially when it came to the camera.

With a water resistant phone I'm not worried about keeping my phone out to use Google Maps in the rain, and I'm happy to take the best camera I have on me out into the surf to snap my baby's first day at the beach.

Samsung's first water resistant phone was the Galaxy S5, back in 2014. The phone was IP67 – meaning it could survive the odd accidental splash of water, but you still had to make sure you weren't jumping in the pool with it. This early protection came at a cost, as the USB ports had tiny little rubber covers that you had to remember to close after every recharge, or risk exposing their electronic innards to water.

Samsung then upped the protection with the Galaxy S7. The Galaxy S7 supports IP68, meaning the phone can survive being submerged in water for up to 30 minutes. This high-end phone also covered its internal electronics with a water-resistant coating, so the ports no longer needed little rubber covers. That made water resistance a feature that was built in, and you no longer needed to think about it.

With the release of the Galaxy A Series, Samsung have upped the ante again, and brought IP68 water resistance and internal coating developed for the S7 to their mid-priced phones.

Samsung Electronics Australia Vice President of IT and Mobile Richard Fink believes water resistance is something that "should come standard" on mobile phones released in the Australian market, given our lifestyles.

"The Galaxy A Series has been developed to deliver the key features that Australians expect from a premium smartphone, but packaged in a device that is accessible to almost everyone."

That includes a high-quality 16-megapixel camera, a sleek aluminium case, and water resistant IP68 certification.

The Galaxy A series sets the standard in affordable mobile phones. The camera is excellent, while offering water resistance so you can use the camera in just about any situation. If you're looking for a great point and shoot designed to

survive Australian conditions and Australian lifestyles, the A Series is a compelling choice.