

# PHOTOGRAPHY WEDDING DAY TIPS



1. **ALLOW FOR ENOUGH TIME.** This is the MOST IMPORTANT TIP!!! Rushed photos are rarely good photos. If your wedding day photography is important to you please make the time in your wedding day schedule for photography. Everything from your bridal prep to your formals should be scheduled. Professional photographers know that wedding day schedules float and photography is one of those areas that tend to get squeezed first. So please plan for more time than you think you will need for photography to reduce the stress and give yourself and your photographer time to create the images you've looked at, thought about, and really want of your wedding day!
2. **BRIDAL PREP.** Some of your best images will be of you in the dressing room. Many brides are self-conscious or modest and are not comfortable with the photographer being in the room, especially if they are male. Your photographer is a professional and should work under professional photography ethics, a wedding photographer would never show inappropriate photos in their portfolio or on their website. But this is a conversation you should have with your photographer before they ever step foot into your dressing room. In fact, during your initial consultation, this should be discussed. Your make-up needs to be done first, or started by the time your photographer or videographer arrive so they can get plenty of time to get those amazing images of you, without anyone feeling rushed. If there's not enough time, you don't get those photos. That's how it works. Also, your bridesmaids, mom, or anyone else who is helping you get dressed into your gown needs to be dressed and ready to go so that when you are getting dressed, the photos reflect the spirit of the day. There's far less magic when your bridesmaids are wearing sweats. Have the area where you are getting dressed clean or cleaned out by your bridesmaids prior to the photographer's arrival for the best images of your bridal prep.
3. **GROOM PREP.** This one is so easy – Don't get dressed before the photographer arrives! Without the images of you getting dressed, the story is not complete. And your photographer will be taking images of your tux, just like they do of your bride's dress. Just as with the bridesmaids, your groomsmen, dad, etc. all need to be dressed and ready to help you get the best images. And again, the groomsmen should clean the hotel room; turn off the TV, etc.

4. **WEDDING DRESS, RINGS & FLOWERS.** When your photographer arrives at one point before you leave for the church, you should allow your photographer time to capture your wedding dress, flowers and rings. These make wonderful keepsake photos from the day of your wedding.
5. **CEREMONY.** Between guest and church/hall requirements, it can be hard for your photographer or videographer to capture uninterrupted shots. Videographers generally man 1 camera and are at a specific location during the ceremony. This location allows for an optimal recording to get the bridal party coming up the aisle and to capture the beautiful bride while staying unobtrusive. Guests tend to stand in the way when the bride is coming up the aisle and it can be very distracting in your wedding video. Please remind guests to allow your photographers and videographers room to work as there photos and video will count the most at the end of your special day! Also please remember to hold you kiss when the time comes as it insures your photographer gets a great shot!

### **Ceremony Tips:**

- a. **Walking Down the Aisle:** There are some very important tips here that help you photographer immensely in getting some great (rather than run of the mill) shots.
- b. Make sure that your wedding party walks at a slow enough pace, with enough distance between each couple for the photographer to discreetly step into the aisle in between and get a shot of each person. The distance between each person (or couple) is the most important factor in the photographer's ability to get the shot.
- c. When you and your bridal party step into the aisle, pause for a brief moment so the photographer can get a good shot of you/them. This is a normal and natural thing to do because you are (hopefully) waiting for the person/couple ahead of you to get far enough down the aisle for you to start walking. You can decide if you want to be looking at the camera, looking straight ahead or otherwise. Just make sure that everyone walking down the aisle knows this plan. It would be a shame to miss a few shots because part of the group walked to closely together or didn't pause long enough to grab a shot.
- d. **The Best Way to put on the Rings:** This is one of the most difficult shots to get for a wedding photographer. Most couples are not aware of the fact that they are blocking it either with their hand positions or with their bodies. To turn this moment into a great photo opportunity, all you need to remember is that as you are putting the ring on, position your fingers on the top and bottom instead of on the sides of the ring.
- e. One more tip is to avoid extending your free hand out to grab your partner's wrist so that you can push that ring on there better. If you feel it is necessary to do this, try putting your hand UNDER your partner's hand and grabbing on from below. This approach prevents

your wrist from blocking the shot. Practice this couple of times, and you will see that it is possible

6. **SCHEDULING PLENTY OF TIME FOR THE FORMALS.** This is one of the most important points. The more time you allow for your photographs, the more your photographer can get creative, help you to relax, and get some great shots! The best albums I've created came from brides and grooms that allowed a good amount of time for photographs. Some things to remember
  - a. Most couples want the following captured: family formals, bridal party shots at the church, bridal party shots at another location, creative shots with just the couple, and more. If you are not seeing each other before the ceremony, all of this must take place between the ceremony end and the reception beginning. Most often, one hour is not enough time to capture all of these. The last thing you want on your wedding day is to feel stressed. More often than not, when a couple tries to squeeze all the photographs into a small amount of time, stress follows.
  - b. Let your bridal party know in advance what the plan is. Some party members may have never been in a wedding before and may not realize that you would like them to go somewhere after the ceremony.
  - c. I always recommend at least 30 minutes of alone time with your photographer. If you are seeing each other in advance this can be before the ceremony. If not, tell the bridal party to head over to the reception venue a bit early and wait for you there. This gives your photographer time to capture you in a cool location without 10 pairs of eyes staring. It's hard to look cool when your bridal party is cracking jokes. Trust me.
7. **GUEST INTERACTIONS & PHOTOS.** Remember your main photographer and videographer is not your uncle or aunt. Your photographer will be following you around as you traverse your reception to interact with your guests and family members. Remember that any photo you take, you should be looking at your professional photographer to capture your image.
8. **RELAX.** The best wedding day photos come from brides and grooms that are relaxed and enjoying their day. Sort out your timeline and logistics with your wedding planner, photographer, and other vendors. Have conversations with everyone 1 week prior, and then put this schedule in the hands of your maid of honor and best man. Lean on them to manage the whirlwind around you, while both of you get to sit back and enjoy the magic of your wedding day. No matter WHAT happens – the cake, the dress you have to be sewn into, things are running late, whatever it is, forget about it. Smile all day, those things don't matter and think about what really matters. Now, smile!

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