

# 45 tips and hints for your day

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## 1. Assign someone you trust to download as many photos as possible before your guests leave the party

All of us already know that one of the great things about weddings today is that almost everyone brings a digital camera. And although many of us also hire professional photographers, we still would like copies of the photos our guests have taken.

The best way to expedite this process is to brief someone who is a trusted friend to be your photo catcher. Their job is to download as many memory sticks as possible onto a designated laptop before your guests leave. If you catch people right then and there you have a much better chance of getting all the images you'd like and without the hassle of chasing them down later.

You'll probably also have the best luck getting images if your photo catcher is NOT in the wedding party. We asked my dad to take on this role, but as a member of the wedding party he got waylaid with other duties at the time.

## 2. Have you thought of your own wedding websites

A wedding website is a fun, creative and simple way to connect with the guests of your wedding. It is a great way to give your guests more information, such as, photos, your love story, bridal party information and travel information. We have 5 great wedding websites to get you started. [\[Click here\]](#)

## 3. Online RSVP for convenience

These days the new thing is to reply to your invite online. Its a convenient way for people to RSVP plus cost effective and easy.

## 4. The father walks to the bride's right

In case you don't know, here's the drill: They come down the aisle with the bride's right hand on her father's arm or hand. If it's the hand it's on the back of his hand which is held slightly elevated, palm down. When they arrive at the altar the groom, who is waiting to one side at the place before the altar (on the right) waits until they stop. The groom steps forward when the father extends his right hand and they shake hands. The father then takes his right hand and

gently lifts the bride's hand from his hand or arm and places it on the groom's left hand which he extends. The father then steps back and then to the left side behind the bride. The groom steps forward and half turns to take the place of the father of the bride. If he can do this without tears in his eyes, he's a tougher man than I.

## 5. Don't forget a wedding day survival kit

A typical one includes a first aid kit, small sewing kit, tampons, a Tide To Go stain remover pen, and anything else that might fix a minor emergency.

## 6. Wake up refreshed

Get to bed at a decent hour the night before so you can be your best. For this reason it's wise to plan bachelor and bachelorette parties at least a week ahead of time.

## 7. Eat a breakfast that is high in protein and complex carbs

This food will take a while to break down in your body and keep you going, which is important since brides and grooms can go long periods without eating.

## 8. Give yourself plenty of time to get ready

You want to be able to relax and have a good time with your bridesmaids, not stress over whether you'll finish in time.

## 9. Wear a dress shirt when getting your hair styled

Brides often wear T-shirts that have to be pulled over their freshly coiffed hair at the end. Dress shirts, however, can be unbuttoned without doing any damage to your beautifully done hair.

## 10. Grooms should make a list of all the things they need to do on the morning of the wedding

Bridesmaids are great at helping a bride remember everything. Groomsmen are less helpful in this regard, though they are more likely to bring beer.

## 11. Speaking of groomsmen, it's a good idea for the groom to discuss expectations for behavior

Guys can get pretty crazy at a reception. If you want a level of decorum it's best to spell that out before someone tries to do a body shot off your grandma.

## 12. If you bought new shoes for the big day, be sure to break them in ahead of time

If you bought new shoes for the big day, be sure to break them in ahead of time. Otherwise you're liable to feel awkward in them and have sore feet.

### 13. Don't over-do the perfume

Heavy perfume can make you feel nauseous and even attract bugs.

### 14. This goes for you too, grooms

Remember, a little cologne goes a long way.

### 15. Hire a wedding coordinator if possible

Couples often decide to cut this expense, but coordinators let you enjoy your day by keeping drama at bay.

### 16. If you can't hire a wedding coordinator, let your bridesmaids handle some of the day-of logistics

They're literally falling over themselves to help.

### 17. Take a few selfies

These candid shots make a fun counterpoint to your photographer's stylized professional shots.

### 18. But other than that, put your phone away

Nothing is happening that's more important than your wedding, OK?

### 19. Get loose before you walk down the aisle

Do some light stretching to release tension and get your blood flowing so that you don't — gasp — pass out. Hey, it happens. Check YouTube.

### 20. Stop to take it all in during the ceremony

Ask your officiate to include a "deep breath" moment so you can look over the audience, gaze at your spouse, and burn the memory into your brain.

### 21. Make a five-minute dinner date

Taking the time to enjoy a full meal is almost impossible with so many guests clamoring for your attention, but a five-minute dinner date — where you grab a few bites and enjoy your new spouse's company — is more manageable.

### 22. Be magnanimous

Greet everyone with a smile even if it's your second cousin whom you haven't spoken to in a couple years because she said that thing (you know what I'm talking about). No one likes an angry bride, and you won't like being one either.

## 23. Similarly, stay poised during the best man and bridesmaid's speeches

If something inappropriate is said it's best to let it pass without having a big reaction. Many people will have missed it, but they won't miss you screaming at the best man.

## 24. Give a thank you speech with your spouse

It'll feel good to thank your parents, grandparents, and guests (especially those who traveled great distances) for making such a momentous occasion in your life possible.

## 25. Arrange for group photos at the reception

Have the DJ call over college friends, co-workers, and teammates for a few quick group photos. Your photographer may suggest doing these before the reception, but save the more formal, time-consuming shots for the wedding party and family only.

## 26. Be careful with alcohol

This is a day you'll want to remember clearly for the rest of your life, so make sure you don't drink too much (that's for doing at your friends' weddings). One tip is to drink a full glass of water between each alcoholic drink.

## 27. Pack flats for the reception

Sophisticated ballet-style slippers look great with a wedding dress, so bring a pair to put on when you want to cut loose.

## 28. Appoint someone to save you from chatty guests

Inevitably someone, whether it's your great aunt from Poughkeepsie or the dad of your old college roommate, will talk your ear off seemingly unaware it's your wedding day. That's why having someone to politely pull you away is a must.

## 29. Have a moment with each of your parents

Brides dance with their fathers and grooms dance with their mothers, but there's no moment on the schedule for your other parent. Make one.

## 30. Don't do the cake smash

Brides, you still have people to see and photos to take, so you don't want to get cake in your hair and on your dress (nor do you want to reapply makeup). Grooms, this is not how you want to start married life. Trust me on this one.

## 31. Give the DJ a list of songs you want to hear

This way you're more likely to hear your jam than "Y.M.C.A."

## 32. Make sure you dance

Your favorite tunes are playing, the dance floor is packed with people you love, and you have reason to celebrate! With conditions like that even grooms who "don't dance" will regret it if they don't let their inner Bacon loose.

## 33. Have a relaxed attitude about the wedding night

If fireworks explode, awesome. But after a long day many brides and grooms collapse in exhaustion. Don't worry... there'll be plenty of time for fireworks later.

## 34. Remember why you're there

Amid all of the fun and celebration be sure to take a moment to look over at the person you're pledging your life to and reflect on the incredible journey that lies ahead of you both.

## 35. Lipstick

Take your lipstick with you on the day so you can reapply when required.

## 36. Getting into your dress

Avoid spoiling your hair when getting dressed. Use a pillow case over your head when putting on your dress.

## 37. Start the search for ceremony and reception locations first

These sites fill up fast and are often booked more than a year in advance, whereas you can safely leave the search for a cake and florist much further down the line.

## 38. How to hold your bouquet

**Holding your bouquet** up against your chest covers your dress, adds bulk to your silhouette and makes you look nervous. Instead, hold it with both hands and rest your arms on your hips – keeping your flowers by your navel looks more natural.

## 39. Choose your ‘maids carefully

We recommend an organised friend to help with planning, a creative bridesmaid to make you feel inspired and a fun ‘maid who will keep you smiling.

## 40. Everyone’s opinion

Don’t feel like you have to ask **everyone their opinion** on everything. Yes, it’s flattering for them to be asked, but the more people you involve in the decision-making process, (whether it be the dress, the venue or the menu) the more opinions you need to juggle.

## 41. How much should you do?

Pick just one or two **DIY elements** and make them the very best they can be. People can get carried away and before long they’re drowning in a sea of unfinished favours and half-sewn bunting. A couple of unique personal touches will be more appreciated by your guests than lots of different ideas all thrown together.

## 42. Fix the date!

Struggling to **fix a date**? I always suggest couples start with their preferred season, then work out three dates that work for you, your fiancé and both sets of parents. Only then, when you’ve got this flexibility, are you ready to visit venues.

## 43. Bridal fashions

It’s fun to **tap into bridal fashions** and reception trends, but beware of being seduced by them unless they really reflect your personal style as a couple. Even the queen of rock’n’roll, Kate Moss, went for an elegantly understated country wedding.

## 44. Plan your day

Plan the day from your guests’ perspective as well as your own. This means making sure that it flows naturally, that they aren’t left standing around without a drink while you have pictures taken, and that they get to spend time with you both, even if it’s only briefly.

## 45. Tips for hiring a photographer

When **hiring a photographer** don’t just take the pricing and compare. There are people that photograph weddings on the weekend or here and there. Then there are professional photographers, like us, that do this often, as our jobs, passions and professions. Photography is what we live, eat, breathe and sleep. It’s important that you know who you are hiring. When someone is a lesser price there’s always a reason. It could be because they have less experience or aren’t offering you the same services. Always consider the quality for money but

most importantly you should like them! If you don't think it will be fun, or you're not excited to be working with them they're probably not a good fit for you.



If you have any tips or words of wisdom you would like to share please email to [tracey@bridalpartywarrnambool.com.au](mailto:tracey@bridalpartywarrnambool.com.au)