

# HANDY HINTS

Over the years, I have gathered many helpful hints for a stress-free wedding.

## Prepare a run sheet for the full day

As there are likely to be many different parties and suppliers involved in your day, it's a good idea to prepare a run sheet that outlines from the time you will start getting ready, right through to what time you will make your departure from the reception. Make sure you share this run sheet with your wedding party, MC and suppliers as required so all parties are aware of who needs to be where and when. While your MC should manage a large part of coordinating the formalities throughout the day, it can also be a good idea to provide a friend or family member (separate to the wedding party) with a copy of your run sheet, so they can step in if required at any point.

## Keep yourself hydrated and nourished

It can be easy to forget to eat or drink throughout the day and you risk becoming dehydrated or low in energy. Mix that with a hot day and nerves and you could end up with a wedding ceremony that is aired on Funniest Home Videos (but won't be so funny to you).

## Hair and makeup

When arranging your appointments with hairdressers and makeup artists, you should ensure that you as the bride goes first, and have your own transport in case you need to leave before the bridesmaids are finished if you are having a traditional bridal party. If not, you may wish to meet with your Groom before the ceremony to have some special time and intimate photos taken so as not to be absent from your guests for a full photo shoot. *Many photographers/videographers will also factor in the 'getting ready' part into their shooting schedule.*

If you are having makeup professionally done, ask for a sample of the base product and lipstick used. Most professionals will happily

supply these to you. They will be a convenient size to put in a small bag to re-apply as needed after the ceremony and throughout the reception.

Apply foundation from under eyes to throat area after eyeshadow has been applied.

Gentlemen, I recommend trialling any skin or hair products before the day or you may risk having a skin reaction or a *There's Something About Mary* experience.

## Flowers

Queensland brides should leave the flowers wrapped with wet paper towels around the stalk at room temperature, otherwise the flowers go into 'shock' when they go outside and won't survive. Dry stem thoroughly so you don't end up with a wet area on your wedding dress.

Ask me for the correct position in which to hold bouquets when walking down the aisle. It is much easier to be shown.

## Groom's arrival

Both the groom and his attendants should be on site at least a half hour before the ceremony start time to be able to greet the guests and to be ready for the photographer.

## Bride's arrival

Contrary to popular belief, it is no longer fashionable for the bride to be late. This may have been the case in a time when churches or venues only booked one wedding per day, however these days sites can be booked for another wedding. You don't want to be hurried along by the arrival of the next bride and groom.

Also, late arrival of the bride can cause undue stress for the groom and his attendants, and your guests. In the interests of all concerned, you should aim to be on time.

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## Transport

Close to your wedding date and at approximately the same time and day as your wedding, have a practice run from where you are getting dressed to the venue. This will cater for about the same type of traffic conditions. Note the time it took to get there, then add 15 minutes to it. Consider also taking into account that you may need to allow an additional 10-15 minutes on arrival at the venue for the photographer. This extra time ensures that you arrive cool, calm and collected to make your entrance.

If using limousines or hire vehicles, contact the company a few days before the wedding date and go over all transport requirements, particularly timings of arrival at the bride's location, departure from there and arrival time at the wedding venue. Ensure that the driver will know the location and directions to the wedding venue.

## For Grooms

- ◇ Buttonhole flowers are worn on the left lapel, with the flower facing up. Flowers are usually worn by the groom and his attendants and the fathers of the bride and groom.
- ◇ For best photographic results, shave 2-3 days before the wedding and then wait until the morning of the wedding to shave again.

## For Brides

- ◇ Pack an 'emergency kit' and ask a friend to hang on to it until needed. Include things like lipstick, make up touch ups, clear nail varnish (to fix a run in stockings), safety pins and/or needle and thread, panadol, spare hanky or tissues, band aids and double sided tape.
- ◇ Consider packing some comfy shoes that you can change into after the photos and formalities are over.
- ◇ If you are spray tanning for your wedding, ensure you do a trial first to be certain you are going to like the end result.
- ◇ Do not apply any hair removal cream or wax within a few days of your wedding unless you are certain that you won't have a reaction to it.
- ◇ Clean your engagement ring (and any other jewellery you will be wearing) so that it will match your shiny new wedding ring.
- ◇ If you are wearing a strapless gown, take your bra off at least three hours before the photographer's arrival on your wedding day. Bra strap marks stay embedded in the skin for a long time and look unsightly in photographs. No amount of makeup will mask them.

The number one comment I hear from couples after their special day is "it went so fast!", so take the time to soak up the mood of the day with your loved ones.