



EIGHT TIPS FOR A Bomb-Proof Wedding

by Ray Salisbury

INTRODUCTION

Planning a wedding is a load of hard work. If you are doing it all yourself, it might be a good idea to follow the old adage: plan for the best; but prepare for the worst.

It's rather rare that show-stopping emergencies happen, but even little hiccups can spoil a wedding, or at least bring unnecessary stress. Here's some suggestions, to ensure your special day goes as smoothly as possible:

♥ Appoint a P.A.

If you're the bride, find a close friend or family member who can act as your personal assistant throughout the day. They can handle a minor crisis, run little errands, and make sure you are well-fed and hydrated.

♥ Compile a Contact List

When you have hired lots of vendors to make your wedding happen, it's easy to lose track of them all... florists, celebrants, caterers, photographers, drivers. Write up a master list of their cell phone numbers, and give it to your P.A. Having their contact details on hand can quickly solve any missing person dramas.

♥ Hire a Professional Videographer

Don't run the risk of asking a mate to bring a video camera – and have him not showing up. At best, he will not have the audio gear to record quality sound. At worst, with a single camera, he will miss half of the action.

♥ Hair Accessories & Makeup

Plenty of brides forget to take tiaras, veils, jewelry, cosmetics or hair accessories with them when they go off to their hair stylist. Putting all this stuff into one container may reduce the risk.

♥ Prepare a Photography Shot List

Give a list to your photographer of specific family group photos which you require. Don't forget to ask for detail closeups of your wedding rings, cake and table decorations.

♥ Ceremony Items

Don't leave these things at home:

- Marriage Certificate
- Wedding vows
- Memorial candles (& matches)
- Ring bearer pillow
- Wedding rings
- Flower girl baskets

♥ Music

Prepare a back-up CD with your bridal entry music and first dance song. Even if you have a live band playing at the reception, it always pays to be prepared.

♥ Suitcases for Honeymoon

If you plan to 'disappear' immediately after the reception, your travel bags will need to be packed well in advance. Don't forget the following essentials:

- Credit cards & spare cash
- Air tickets & passports
- Driver's licence & car keys
- Hotel keys

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