

## Ten Stupid Mistakes Even Smart Couples Make!

Everyone wants their wedding day to be perfect, but unfortunately, wedding day disasters are common, from the bridal gown locked up in the dry cleaners to disappearing caterers and wilting flowers.

You have to guard against mistakes others might make, but some of the most embarrassing "disasters" are often the fault of the wedding couple themselves!

Here are a few 'must avoid's when planning your perfect wedding.

### 1. Assuming that your bridal party knows what to do

A classic assumption, and yet it is the number one source of the biggest disappointments on the day. Some of your friends may have been in numerous weddings and think they know the "routine". However, NEVER assume anyone in your wedding party knows what is expected of them. Also don't lose sight of the fact that even though it is an honour and a privilege to be a part of someone's wedding, it is also a responsibility, financially and otherwise. So choose carefully, consider their dependability, especially that of your maid of honour. If you're not sure what is expected, seek the advice of an expert, such as a professional wedding MC. Then, clearly communicate your needs and expectations to your bridal party so that everyone is working off the same page.



### 2. Hiring friends

Unless your friend is a PROFESSIONAL in a particular venue or industry, friends should simply be invited as guests and NOT as "hired" help. This is especially true of the MC, or Master of Ceremonies - you only get one shot at getting it right, and despite their best intentions, "hiring" friends and family can often result in embarrassment.

### 3. Keeping it a secret

Afraid to speak your mind? Don't be. If your vendors don't know what you want, they can't give it to you. Be polite, but firm, clear, thorough, and SPECIFIC about what you want and expect.



### 4. Forgetting to focus on what's important

Keep in mind that you are getting married and starting a life together, NOT just planning a wedding. Brides, be good to your grooms. And grooms, be good to your brides! Some tension between the two of you (and among members of your family) is inevitable due to the sticky topics that weddings stir up, but don't ever let things get out of control. Remember why you decided to take this leap in the first place!

### 5. Manage your expectations

Another major cause of wedding day strife is demanding perfection. If you – and everyone involved – focus on what your wedding is really about -- a lifelong commitment between two people in love -- any minor setbacks can be put in the proper perspective. Unless a wedding day problem is actually dangerous or life threatening, let it go.

## 6. Order the right size attire

Ordering a smaller size because, "I'm going to lose weight" is tantamount to inviting disaster. Order the size that you are on the day you choose your attire, regardless of your weight loss plans. It is usually easier, and much better to take in, than it is to let it out. A gown or tux that is designed too small can usually be made only one size larger.

## 7. Beware the infamous 'wardrobe malfunction'

Black underwear, white dress. It was a bad idea in primary school, and it's still a bad idea today. Check in a mirror in various lighting situations to make sure that your dress isn't sheer or invisible in certain conditions prior to the ceremony. If you are renting a tux, check it for rips and make sure you have it fitted before you bring it home. Also, black is the only acceptable colour for a tuxedo.

## 8. Late to the altar

It's never fashionable to be late to your wedding. Not only is this one inconsiderate to the guests and your soon-to-be spouse, but it also wreaks havoc on your vendors. Flowers wilt, food gets cold, and photographers lose needed time to pose people and get those still shots with the available light for memory albums. The only reason you should ever be late to your own wedding would be something completely beyond your control - like a force of nature.



## 9. Speaking while intoxicated

This one should be a new form of misdemeanour. If your wedding traditions include the bride or groom making a speech to the assembled guests, do it before you enjoy the free bar. You'll be thankful later when you watch the wedding videos, and you won't have to apologise to people you don't remember insulting.



## 10. Failing to thank your guests

They came to the wedding. They brought gifts. They stopped and congratulated you and took time out of their busy lives to help you celebrate the joining of you and your beloved in a new life together. Don't leave the reception hall without saying thank you!

*Written by Mark Collard, with thanks to Curt Hagedorn and Mia Bolaris-Forget.*



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