

The “Wedding Day Prep List”!!!

As of 2026, I have photographed over 700 weddings! The following checklist includes the most common concerns that I see occur. Some tips are common sense; others tips might be useful ☺

1. Get plenty of sleep. Wind down early...finding sleep can be difficult. Tomorrow will be a long day!
2. Be aware of your alcohol consumption the day before and the day of.
3. Eat normally. Have a good breakfast. Have snacks while getting ready and before the ceremony. Stay hydrated if it will be hot!!! Use straws as to no mess up your lipstick.
4. Have a copy of your permit ON YOU. This is the only way you can force someone to vacate your reserved park, beach, etc.
5. Touch base with all of your vendors if you haven't heard from them! Solidify start times!
6. Delivery times: cake, flowers etc. We'll need flowers for photos. Make sure they arrive early!
7. Do you have any outstanding balances with your vendors?
8. Have extra cash on you (emergencies, tips, last minute purchases...sending someone to the store).
9. Make sure all your vendors are on the same schedule. There should be a master coordination timeline that ALL vendors should be aware of.
10. Hair/Makeup: This is the biggest time waster at weddings. Be sure your hair and makeup are FINISHED on time. Late hair/makeup will push everything back. ESPECIALLY if we are doing a first look!
11. Re-read number 10! Give your hair/makeup artis a “hard” end time.
12. Bring a nice wooden hanger for your wedding dress....It will make the photos much better!
13. Family photos are usually done immediately after the ceremony, and done quickly. Don't assume people know that they need to remain for photos. Let them know ahead of time. Typically, this includes: Parents, Siblings, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Grandparents AND all of their Children and Spouses. Ask your officiant to announce, “immediate family needs to remain for photos, and the rest can join cocktail hour”. The second biggest time killer is tracking down family members who joined cocktail hour. This will cut into your time doing photos or joining the cocktail hour.
14. Wedding Party: They should be aware of the photographer's time-line AND the ceremony start time! The photographer will need them for a good portion of the time allotted for photography.
15. Practice bustling your dress. I've seen this take up to 30 minutes! Delegate someone to bustle! Also, if the groomsmen are pinning on their boutonnieres, this can eat up time too!

I want to give you the best photos possible from your wedding!!! If you allow me the time needed to create those photos, I can assure that you will love them. Sticking to the itinerary as closely as possible will guarantee this!

Lastly, when you wake up on the day of your wedding, **let all the stress go!** All the planning has been done to make your wedding go as smooth as possible! Don't sweat the small stuff. Most weddings have an “oops” or an “uh-oh”; just roll with the punches and enjoy your day ☺