



Wedding Day Tips

We are super excited to have been chosen to photograph your special day and we also know that you will have a hundred things spinning around in your head on the day. As such, we want to give you some tips and advice to help us capture your special day and also to help you relax and feel comfortable that you know what is going to happen.

Naturally every wedding is different so some of these may not apply to your particular day or there may be some things which we have not covered – please feel free to discuss anything you want to with us.

Getting ready shots

General – we will look to “de-clutter” rooms for these shots, so that anything no “wedding related is tucked out of sight as much as possible.

Groom/Groomsmen

For preparation shots, please make sure that the **Groom and Groomsmen are ready and available for the booked time** (dressed as if the wedding is in the next 5 minutes!) – we will then aim to get photos of:

Best man assisting with tie, cuff links, jacket etc....*

Groomsmen together with groom*

Groomsmen separately with groom (“last look”)*

Any special items (pocket watches, shoes, letters to be read out/cards to be opened) are set aside and pointed out to our photographer*

Rings are available*

Bride/Bridal Party

For preparation shots, please make sure that the **Bride and Bridesmaids are ready and available for the booked time** (makeup on – but not in wedding dress) – we will then aim to get photos of:

Hair being “dressed”*

Makeup being applied (although this will have already been applied – we will “fake it” – with some final touches)*

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Specific photos are not guaranteed and these are listed as a guide*



Dress being buttoned up/vale being placed in hair/doing up laces (we will of course leave the room when the dress is actually being put on but will “fake” the finishing touches)*

Bride/Bridesmaids with bouquets “Woo Game!”*

Bridesmaids separately with bride (“last look”)*

Any special items (necklaces, shoes, letters to be read out/cards to be opened and of course “old/borrowed/blue) are set aside and pointed out to our photographer*

Ceremony

Before the ceremony, make sure you have drunk plenty of water, eaten something and of course used the toilet. We always encourage some downtime for Bride and Groom, before the ceremony when we have our timeline meeting.

For those who have been on an engagement shoot -they will probably remember these:

Walk slowly, really slowly and as if you are on a tightrope (one foot in front of the other) – keeping your head up (don’t look at the ground)

When placing rings on you loved one’s finger, **do this slowly with your hand underneath** – so the receiving ring finger is exposed. Even **pause for a moment as the ring reaches the halfway point** of the receiving finger.

For the first kiss – remember..... slow – and **make it last for about 4-5 seconds** (will seem like a lifetime, but this ensures that we capture the best shots. **No “quick pecks”**).

Confetti

Please check with your venue in relation to confetti and **let us know beforehand if you will be using it**. We like to line up the congregation and have the bride and groom walk through with the confetti **“wafted” rather than thrown!**

Group Shots/Formals

We like to get these done as promptly as possible, but as a rule of thumb each grouping takes approximately 2-3 minutes for arrangements under 8 people, while over 8 people is more like 3-5 minutes.

So please think carefully about which shots you would like as these will take time. We always suggest that you let the people in the group photos know, beforehand – so that they stay close and are ready.

For these – we ask that all handbags and sunglasses are placed to one side, so that they do not get in the photos.

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Standard Group/Formal List:

Bridal Family:

1. Bride & Groom
2. Bride and Groom with **Bride's Mum & Dad**
3. Bride and Groom with Bride's Mum & Dad & **Bride's Brothers, Sisters + Kids**
4. Bride and Groom with Brides Parents with all above **and all other bridal family**

5. Bride & Groom with Bride's Mum & Dad & **Groom's Mum & Dad**

Groom Family

6. Bride and Groom with Groom's Mum & Dad
7. Bride and Groom with Groom's Mum & Dad & **Groom's Brothers & Sisters + Kids**
8. Bride and Groom with Brides Parents with all above **and all other groom family**

Wedding Party

9. Bride and Groom with **Bridesmaids and Groomsmen**
10. Bride with **Bridesmaids (Best pose game*)**
11. Groom with **Groomsmen (Best pose game*)**

Notes:

- Everything in **Bold is in addition** to the grouping above – adding extra people to the current arrangement.
- In order to shoot these arrangements quickly we ask that a nominated person (often best man/ushers or bridesmaids) assist with having the **next two line ups ready and waiting close to our photographer.**
- Additional “Can we just have one with.....” requests on the day, will be ignored due to time-constraints unless agreed by bride/groom

Speeches/Toasts/Meal

Please inform us 10 minutes before your speeches/Toasts are about to start (usually a job for the best man or wedding co-ordinator), as we use the meal time as an opportunity for us to take a break and get refreshed, so generally we are not in the same room as you and your guests.

We do not as a general rule of thumb, take photos of guests eating – these photos do not look good and your guests can feel uncomfortable. We want you to all have fun and relax.

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Cake Cut

For the cake cut, we normally suggest that the **cake is moved to the centre of the dance floor** – this should be done around 30 minutes before the planned cake cut, so that we can set up our lighting ready for the moment.

By moving the cake to the centre of the dance floor we can get photos of you cutting the cake, with your guests in the background, clapping and taking photos. These make for much better photos than just a plain wall.

Remember – slow!

Sometime couples like to feed each other some cake, if this is you, please let us know!

First Dance

Please let us know when this will be happening and we will make sure we are ready. We usually use the same lighting set up as we have for the cake cut.

Remember – slow! (We know it can feel awkward and like a lifetime, but the pictures and memories will be worth it)

We usually suggest 2 minutes of the couple dancing on their own, so that we can capture the best photos possible, before the rest of your guests join you on the dancefloor.

We encourage your guests to get around the dancefloor while you are having your first dance, as again this makes for a better background for our photos.

Of course, we are always happy to chat weddings even outside the area of photography, as we have been to a lot of them! So, if you have any questions, then drop us a line.

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