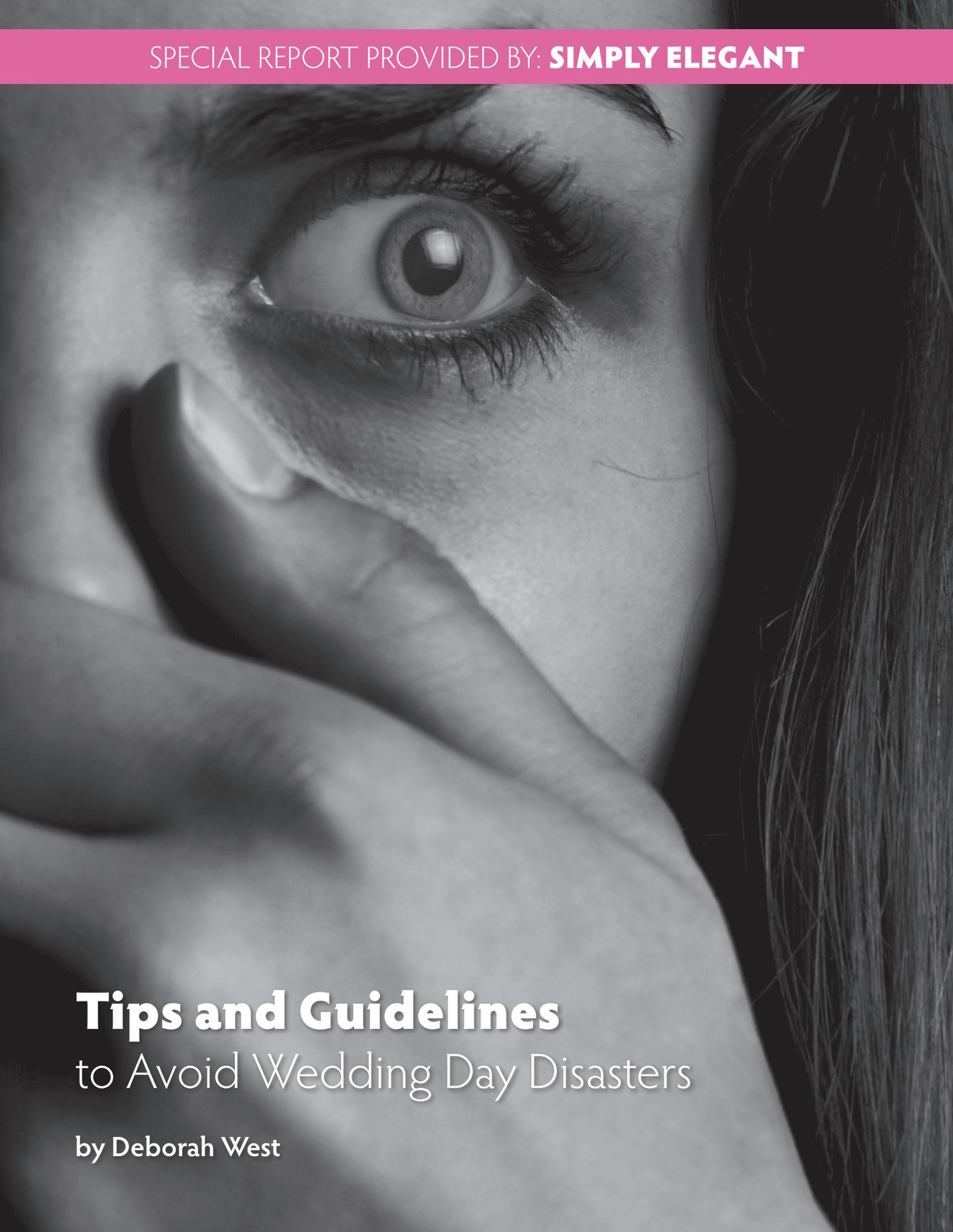


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Tips and Guidelines to Avoid Wedding Day Disasters

by Deborah West

So, you have spent the last few months preparing for one of the biggest days of your life, and in some cases the last couple of years. You have gone through every little detail from the color of the dessert napkins to which tux will look best next to you and your bridesmaids. Your venue was carefully chosen, and you fought over who sits at which table at the reception, (because let's face it, your crazy uncle shouldn't be sitting at table number five with your nice friend from college). Every element of your wedding day has been accounted for. But what most brides do not spend months planning are the "what-if" scenarios.

One of the most important days of your life is full of those carefully planned details, and the last thing that any bride wants is for months of plans to unravel. Now, before we dive in with how to deal with possible emergencies take into account that any number of things can go wrong. However, focus on the big ones. This is a "choose your battle" event. If you are missing one-hundred yellow dessert napkins, that's okay because your mother-in-law or the best man just showed up quite inebriated. Your guests will figure out how to clean up their dessert mess, so push the napkins to the back of your mind and delegate someone to grab some coffee and a chair in a separate room for your soon to be mother-in-law or your husband's ex best friend.

Delegating is the key to overcoming wedding day disasters. You don't have to fix all the situations that take place at the wedding you just have to have people around you that are willing to step up and make things right. In the case of the partying guest or relative, don't go near them as you risk too much with a white dress and perfect hair. Find someone to monitor them and get back to the moment you were caught up in.

This is just one scenario in which you can easily control the outcome. Now, let's talk about those small emergencies that no one really anticipates, but can be fixed if prepared for.

Your wedding gown should be one of the first things that you picked out. It is said, "Groom, wedding date, dress, venue, and everything after are just details." Your gown is one of the most important parts of your day. Every detail matters because you have spent so long working on them, but let's be honest: people are there to see you get married to the love of your life and most people will not remember details of the wedding. Some grooms don't even recall what color the bridesmaid dresses were! He will,

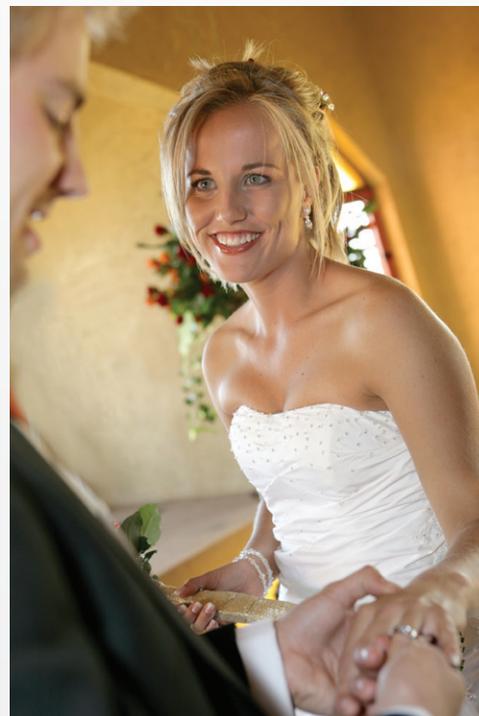
however, remember you walking down that aisle toward him in the perfect wedding gown.

These are a few emergencies that can be anticipated and prepared for. A spot on the dress is a common emergency. Whether you get a spot before the ceremony or during the reception, it can be dealt with. Make sure that you have on hand: baby wipes, club soda, cheese cloth, a hair dryer, hair spray, a Tide Stain Stick, and white chalk if you have a silk dress.

Say that you get a makeup stain on your dress. Take the baby wipe and gently blot only the area of the stain to get it out. Do not use soap and water because this will make the stain more noticeable. Use the hair dryer once it is out to dry it quickly. If mascara is the culprit, use the cheesecloth and a little water, same procedure. If you get ink on your dress, you can actually use hairspray to lightly blot it out really easily. Red wine can be blotted gently with the club soda. Don't rub, just blot until it comes out. Now, if your dress is silk, do not try to rub, wipe, or wash anything out. You simply need to take white chalk and lightly cover the stain. Silk is such a delicate fabric, that getting it wet or trying to clean it can damage it permanently.

If your dress has a snag in it, the best thing you can do is simply let it go. Pulling on it will only make it worse, and chances of anyone seeing it are slim. If someone does happen to see the snag and says something to you, don't pounce. Just smile and thank them for coming then move on to other guests.

A common problem that brides face comes with the popular strapless gown. How often do you see girls tugging at their strapless dress trying to keep it from falling down? I have had many brides and mothers bring this concern up while wedding dress shopping. Here is what I tell them: "First of all, most of it is mental. Your dress will not fall down. The security of straps or sleeves that you are used to is gone, so it is



only natural that you will want to make sure that nothing is going to fall. However, you should also feel secure in your dress. Make sure that you get a dress with built-in boning and bra. A lot of cheaper gowns do not have this and require that you buy the long-line bra instead. With a built in bra, the dress sits perfectly where it should on your waist and will not move." You also need to make sure that you get the right size. If your dress is too small, then the cups of the dress will pucker out so that they aren't flush against your skin. If the dress is too large, then it will feel like it is going to slip. Something to bring with you just in case is double-sided tape, or fashion tape. If you place this on the inside of the dress under the arms then the dress will stay in place a lot better.

Ultimately, the best thing you can do for that assured security is to buy a gown that is made with the built in bra.

The last thing that you need to make sure that

you have for a wedding gown emergency is a needle and thread, and make sure the thread matches the color of the dress. Buttons and beads can come off, which is an easy fix. I recently heard a story of a wedding coordinator having to sew the bride into her wedding gown twenty minutes before the wedding!

Shifting from the bride to the groom, let's talk about what to do when his attire goes wrong. Well, let's be honest, will anyone even notice? Maybe we should shift our time preparing for other wedding emergencies.

Since your wedding day is a tapestry of a crazy amount of details, expect other things to go wrong. Here are a few cases that will help you think ahead and plan for a less stressful day.

Think about the color of your wedding cake icing. I had a friend use dark purple icing on her wedding cupcakes. While it was beautiful, she did not anticipate her groom smashing the cupcake in her face- all fun and games until the bride has a big purple stain on her face. So, if you want a dark color for your icing, either agree to not smash the cake in each others' face or have a few cupcakes in a different lighter color. Now keep in mind that sometimes a guy will promise not to smash it in your face, but then he gets caught up in the fun of the moment and does it anyway. Just saying.

Every bride can attest to the frustration of having guests confirm their reservation at the reception and not show up. On the flip side, most brides can also agree that guests who did not RSVP or even said that they were not coming, and show up are just as frustrating. An easy way to prepare for this fun surprise is to have a few extra chairs set throughout the reception hall. Chances are that some people who said that they were coming will not, which will balance out any of those surprise guests. However, if you prepare for the unexpected, then the worst that can happen is that you have extra seating.

One of my favorite wedding surprise stories is of a friend of mine who got married and had an inebriated family member decide to get up and sing a song for them at the reception. Luckily in her situation, the wedding singer ended up having a great voice and it only created a little tension. My advice? Let someone else deal with it. Your wedding party should know the course of events for the day. If grandma gets up there to sing to you one of the groomsmen or even a parent of the bride

or groom should easily, and without drawing too much attention, direct them to an exit to deal with the situation. The worst that can happen is they embarrass you for a few minutes and someone gets in on video so that you can revisit the moment on YouTube after the wedding. Just remember that it will be funny, if not yet then later.

Children are adorable and for some reason it has become a tradition to put little boys in a cute tux and little girls in a small white dress to have them walk down the aisle. When you stop to think about it, how is it that we as adults expect a small child, who is inevitably unpredictable, to walk down the aisle with hundreds of people watching them? However, most brides want their little nephew, niece, or any other cute kid to be a part of their wedding. So here is the truth: a lot of kids, of any age, find that when faced with hundreds of people watching them all they want is their mom or dad; or, like the flower girl in my friend's wedding: to sit down in the middle of the aisle with her flower girl basket and scream at an unbelievable decibel. Kids are unpredictable, so sometimes the best thing to do is have the flower girl or ring bearer walk down the aisle with one of the bridesmaids that they are comfortable with, their mom, or even the bride. I saw a video of a ring bearer who got so scared walking down the aisle, that he ran up and hit the videographer. So, this is a basic fight or flight principle that you need to anticipate.

Another accident to anticipate that involves the ring bearer is his losing the rings. Again, with the ring bearer being a child it may not be the wisest decision to entrust such an important and expensive object with him. A wedding coordinator suggested that the fake rings be put on the ring pillow and give the actual rings to the best man. You don't want to be standing at the altar with no ring to give to your beloved.

These are just a few scenarios that can be anticipated and dealt with before the big day. Like I said before, there are a lot of things that can go wrong. With so many details and so many integrated parts that make up this day, you have to leave a little room for at least a few mishaps. And once you get to the big day keep in mind that the best thing you as the bride can do is relax. You will be walking down the aisle toward the person that you love, and a drunk relative or lack of napkins will not change or even ruin that. So take a deep breath, relax, and enjoy one of the most important and amazing days of your life.

Items to Include in Your Wedding Day Emergency Kit:

1. Aspirin (or pain reliever of choice)
2. Band-Aids
3. Chalk (to cover up any last minute smudges or smears on your dress)
4. Clear nail polish (for stocking runs)
5. Corsage pins
6. Dental floss/toothpicks
7. Eye drops
8. Extra earring backs
9. Extra panty hose
10. Hair pins/ponytail holder
11. Hand towelettes
12. Hem tape
13. Mini sewing kit
14. Safety pins
15. Scotch tape
16. Small folding scissors
17. Spot remover
18. Static-cling spray
19. Straws (so the bride can stay hydrated without messing up her lipstick)
20. Tissues

Other items you may want to include:

- Bottled water
- Tweezers



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I would really love to see a picture of you in your wedding gown on your special day. Please send it to me at info@sebridals.com when you get back from your honeymoon. Congratulations again on your upcoming wedding. I hope following these tips will help you be at ease on your big day. I've attached a short list here of items that you should have in your Wedding Day Emergency Kit. You can put these items together on your own or purchase one at our store. Don't hesitate to ask if we can help you in any other way as you finalize your preparations for your wedding.



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