



*Things we wish each of
our brides knew
before “I do.”*



Once in a while,
right in the middle of an ordinary life,
love gives us a fairy tale.

// TO OUR BEAUTIFUL BRIDES-TO-BE



Almost the big day! We are soo happy for you!!! It's going to be as beautiful as you walking down the aisle.

Throughout the years we've talked to a lot of brides about what they wished they knew before their wedding day. We've gathered the most important bits and put it all here for you. Even if you already have everything in order, you'll want to read these golden nuggets. ~ Sending you love and all that you have ever wished for. xo



BABY WIPES ARE YOUR BEST FRIEND

Your dress, especially the hem, is inevitably going to get dirty. One of our brides was told by a friend to bring baby wipes just in case. She did and said they were magical in getting dirt off the bottom of her dress.

Baby wipes will also help if you accidentally spill food or a drink on your dress. They work on satin and other fabrics. Just check in with your seamstress to make sure you can use baby wipes safely on the fabric of your dress.



DESIGNATE **MCs**

Wedding days are hectic. You aren't going to have time to run around and do everything. Our brides who were least stressed were so because they designated one or two people, Masters of Ceremonies (MCs), to be their go-to person. The MCs liaised with the wedding coordinator and attendees, answered and replied to texts and decided when information should go to the bride. Tip: Tell your MCs ahead of time how little or much you want to be involved and what things you want them to bring to you. Then let them work their magic to prevent you from being overwhelmed on your big day.



HAPPY IS THE BRIDE
THE SUN SHINES ON

Robert Herrick



BRIDE SURVIVAL KIT

Sure, you aren't going into the jungle to wrestle with lions but you will have things happen. So be prepared by putting together a Bride Survival Kit. Here are the things are brides recommend you put in it:

- Mints
- Aspirin & Antacids
- Dental floss & a tooth brush
- Deodorant
- Sewing kit
- First aid kit including band-aids
- Bobby pins & safety pins
- Mirror
- Baby wipes (yep, we just talked about that)
- White chalk
- Scissors (oh, that's a good one)
- Lint roller
- Smelling salts (okay, this may be overkill)

THINGS TO BRING

CAKE BOX

Ask your baker for a cake box so you can keep the top layer of your cake.

NICE HANGER

Plastic hangers do not look attractive in photos or video. Wooden or velvet hangers are way more classy and will flatter the dress.

SNACKS

You might not have time to eat your meal so pack a sports bar and nuts to make sure you don't go hungry.





A TRUE **TEST DRIVE**

Give your gown a true test-drive by walking around, dancing and sitting on a chair. In the final round of fittings, make sure the seamstress tacks everything perfectly so you don't have anything riding up or down in ways that won't look flattering. You are going to look beautiful!

HOLD YOUR BOUQUET LOW

When you walk down the aisle make sure your bouquet is low and not covering your face. Ask a friend to sit close to the front and correct you if you start holding it up too high. A tip from our brides is: before walking down with your dad, hold your bouquet where you want it and then tell him to hook arms with you. ~ Also, one of our favorite tips is to make post-wedding plans for your flowers. A friend can drive them to the hospital or give them to guests as they leave.



MAID OF HONOR **BUSTLE**

Have your Maid of Honor practice bustling your dress a few days before your wedding. See if she can make it to your last fitting so your seamstress can show her how.

ALWAYS HAVE A **BACKUP**

Always have a backup of your emails, music and photos. Also carry around a printed version of your game plan.



DOESN'T HAVE TO BE **PERFECT**

No wedding ever goes as planned. The more you can relax when you find out something didn't go as expected, the better you will feel. ~ Don't get too caught up in everything having to be just so. ~ Embrace the imperfections like time delays. ~ You can prepare by knowing it takes more time than expected to finish up your hair and makeup for the photos just as it takes more time than expected to get on your dress, shoes and jewelry. If something is delayed by a few minutes, don't worry. Even when the people around you are.



PUT A DEADLINE ON YOUR PHOTOS

Put an exact time frame in the contract with your photographer so you don't have to wait months to receive your photos.

ASK FOR SUNSET PHOTOS

Tell your photographer that you would like photos at sunset/dusk. The photographer can then take you outside when the lighting is just right.



GET A **PHOTO BOOTH**

Our brides say this is such a simple thing to do yet one that makes the evening so much better. They said it breaks the ice with guests. And it keeps everyone – adults, teens and kids – entertained during downtime (i.e. before dinner is served). It is also a great way to have photos of everyone who joined you at your wedding. Also, a photo strip is a fun party favor that everyone will love.

Don't forget to go into the photo booth too!



COORDINATE WITH YOUR DJ

From music selection to how the DJ is going to get granny on the dance floor, you are going to want to know how they work. Listen to their music demos and watch wedding performances to get a sense of how they will be with your guests.



SPLURGE ON THE **MOST IMPORTANT THINGS**

Your wedding is a beautiful, momentous occasion and for that reason, our brides want you to go overboard and splurge on the things that are most important to you.

Get the dress that you really want and don't settle for the less expensive one.

Choose a wedding photographer based on the quality of their work not on their price.

Hire a wedding coordinator to help plan your wedding. While it may cost more to have a coordinator, they know deals and will save you money in the end.

Organic ingredients might cost you more but the caterer will be more up-to-date on food trends and no open bar can compensate for terrible food.

FREE TIME **AFTER THE WEDDING**

The months leading up to your wedding are frantic. And then after your big day, everything comes to a sudden halt. Our brides say to avoid post-wedding depression by planning things in advance to help yourself slowly transition out of the hustle into your new life. Keep exercising and eat healthy. Those two things alone can keep you healthy & happy.



// SWEETEST WISHES FOR THE SOON-TO-BE MRS

Congratulations!!! May your love continue to grow each and every year.

Sola HQ is passionate about bringing joy, love & laughter to all of our brides-to-be. If you have a story to share with others, send it to us at hellosolahq@gmail.com. We'll include it here or on our social media channels.

xoxo

@hellosolahq (twitter, insta, fb)