



Coping with wedding day mishaps

YOUR WEDDING is a few weeks away and, naturally, you're dreaming of a perfect, worry-free day. But it's true of weddings as of anything else: The best-laid plans often go awry.

If you're the victim of a no-show organist or a record heat wave, will you know how to cope?

Bride's Magazine has these tips for handling common wedding-day crises:

- The photographer is nowhere to be found. Or, the wedding cake does come but it says, "Bon Voyage Aunt Claire." The florist has dropped off six centerpieces; you ordered 12.

Foretell these mishaps by getting everything in writing. A reliable contract should specify delivery date and hour, and include such details as dress colors, frosting flavors and liquor amounts.

PROVIDE ALL delivery people with a map and instructions for reaching your home or the reception place. And, confirm all services a week ahead and again, the day before the wedding.

On the day itself, ask a friend to get to the church early to make sure flowers are being delivered and the photographer is setting up.

As a last resort, turn to back-ups. A talented cousin might be your pinch-hit photographer. Send ushers to the deli, bakery or liquor store for missing items. (Don't wait too long!)

- You spill red wine on your dress. Everything imaginable can go wrong with clothes — zippers stick, wrinkles appear, veils tear, and buttons fall off.

Ask your salon owner beforehand what your dress is made of and how to repair it in an emergency. Then, pack a "just-in-case" kit with needle and thread, spot remover, glue, safety pins, tape, and a travel steamer. In a pinch, move flowers to hide the spot or tear.

- The best man forgets the ring. Or, it gets stuck on his finger. Or, it falls off the ring bearer's cushion and rolls out of sight. Generally, the best man should keep the ring in his pocket, not on his finger.

Secure the ring on the ring bearer's pillow with a ribbon — or use a fake

just for the effect. If your ring really is temporarily out of commission, borrow a ring from an attendant or a parent, and carry on.

- A bridesmaid is about to keel over. It could be stage fright, a skipped breakfast, or just too much excitement. Be sure to include every attendant in your wedding rehearsal and practice walking down the aisle and what to do at the altar.

ENCOURAGE "R&R" time for everyone the week before, including plenty of sleep and exercise. Plan your rehearsal dinner as an early evening — or hold it two nights ahead. Ask your

maid of honor to carry smelling salts, aspirin and tissues.

- It's pouring rain. Or it's sunny — but the heat threatens to wilt flowers and you! It's essential to have a back-up location for anything planned outdoors.

You should also be prepared to: Dress at the church or nearby. Delay the ceremony. Put up signs for a detour route to church in case of flooded roads. Use beach umbrellas to ferry everyone from cars to church in a downpour. Borrow small air conditioners and fans to keep the wedding party cool and makeup intact until the ceremony.

Most couples shop together for rings

Buying a diamond engagement ring is often the first step toward matrimony for many couples. Before buying this important token of love, it is wise to know as much about diamonds and the variety of styles that are available, as well as to work out a budget for it.

Determining a budget is the first thing to do. Most couples find that two months' salary is a reasonable spending guide to follow when purchasing a quality diamond engagement ring. Considering that a diamond engagement ring lasts forever as the symbol of a couple's love, two months' salary is not too much to invest.

Most couples shop together for their diamond, but the majority of rings are still purchased by the male half of the couple after they have decided what they like together. Some of the exciting options in diamond engagement rings this year include new cuts and settings of traditional shapes.

The traditional shapes are brilliant (round), emerald (rectangular), marquise (diamond-shaped), pear, oval and heart. Seventy-eight percent of all brides receive the round, making it the most popular diamond engagement ring.

THREE NEW TYPES of cuts which have become very popular are the Starburst, the Quadrillion, and the Trillion, which have been created by diamond jewelry manufacturers Louis Glick, Ambar Diamonds, and L.F. Industries, respectively. These new styles are available at fine jewelry stores throughout the United States.

The Starburst diamond is a square or rectangular-shaped highly faceted stone. A round brilliant cut diamond has 58 facets — the Starburst has between 95 and 120 facets. Even more

Please turn to Page 7

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