

Wedding DO's and Don'ts

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As my three-month wedding anniversary has just passed, I have plenty of advice to give to brides. I hope I can help a lucky bride-to-be out there!

1. **DO** wait 'til the last (reasonable) minute to print invitations because times and venues CAN change. Just have everything ready to be printed about 11 weeks before the wedding date.
2. **DON'T** spend too much money on the wedding cake. Few guests eat it and strangely -- as long as it's not hideous or tacky -- you don't care about the cake at all on the wedding day.
3. **DO** buy white shoes when they're in season so that the selection and prices are better. Note: It's best to buy your shoes AFTER you choose a dress, however, because you may look great in a creamy, ivory, or antique lace -- rather than white -- dress.
4. **DON'T** wear perfume or carry fragrant flowers such as roses for an outdoor wedding. The bees become unwelcome guests and they WILL sting brides and bridesmaids.
5. **DO** set the tone for your officiant (tactfully, of course) because you may or may not want jokes, conversion tactics, abortion/divorce etc. brought up during the ceremony.
6. **DON'T** be a slave to etiquette when your gut tells you otherwise. You'll be surprised how much people enjoy your personal touch, rather than suffering through another factory-built wedding.
7. **DO** consult with mother/mother-in-law on things that make no difference to you.
8. **DON'T** consult with mother/mother-in-law on things that you feel strongly about and won't bend on anyway.
9. **DO** delegate short-term assignments to the groom, such as getting quotes from a musician, whose phone number you've already sourced. Show your appreciation when he completes ANY wedding-related task.
10. **DON'T** drag the groom through the ups and downs of wedding planning. If he's apathetic, be thankful. It's normal AND preferable to having the groom turn into another interfering mother/mother-in-law!