



WEDDING

PREP GUIDE

W E L C O M E

Hi there! I'm Lisa, your friendly neighborhood photographer with a fondness for binge watching *The Office* and a penchant for drinking white wine. Together, it's a perfect weekend in. As you may have guessed, yes, *I am a wedding photographer*, but I'm also a wife and mom, and my passion for photography comes very close to ranking right up there with how much I adore my people. (Come on now, I can't say that I love taking photos more than I ♥ them, but let's just say, my first love was definitely photography. Wink, wink.) But enough about me. I'm here to share some useful words of wisdom with you that will hopefully bring you some valuable advice and help to streamline your wedding planning process. The information on these pages is based on the experiences I've encountered through my years in this industry and the many weddings I have shot. These suggestions and recommendations are just a bit of guidance that may answer some questions or help you settle on a decision. My main goal is to ensure that your day run efficiently and smoothly so that your only job is to relax and enjoy this exceptional time in your life. And if you would like to work together, I am all in! Shoot me an email or give me a call and we'll get this ball rolling. Looking forward to hearing from you and I hope this information has been beneficial and worthwhile!

Have a question? Here's how to get in touch with me!

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HELLO!

5 Items to Check Off Your WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY CHECKLIST

- ☐ Send contract and retainer. This is done at the time of booking.
- ☐ Schedule Engagement Session two months or more in advance.
- ☐ Schedule wedding consult (set for one month prior to wedding). Schedule two months in advance.
- ☐ Submit must-have wedding shots. Send two weeks prior to wedding.
- ☐ Submit final timeline, venue addresses (including salons, getting ready locations, etc.), emergency contact numbers, hotel room numbers to your photographer 48 hours in advance.



A full-page photograph of a wedding couple in a forest. The bride is wearing a white, long-sleeved, textured gown and is looking up at the groom with a smile. The groom is wearing a dark suit and is looking down at the bride. They are standing on a grassy area with fallen leaves. In the background, there are tall trees with green and yellow foliage. A semi-transparent grey box with the text "best day ever" is overlaid on the top left of the image.

best
day
ever

How To Have The Best Wedding Day Photos

If you are like a lot of people, stepping in front of the camera is not an every day experience, and it makes you feel a bit uncomfortable. I'm here to make sure you look and feel your best throughout your entire wedding day. I'm also here to help by sharing some helpful tips to ensure that you look amazing in your photos.

Relinquish Control

Of course, you must trust your photographer. With over 15 years experience, I know how to make you look best in your photos, and that is my goal from the moment your day begins. I look for the most flattering angles, find the perfect light, and use creative techniques to really capture your true selves and your genuine emotion on camera.

Keep It Natural

A hearty laugh and a genuine smile are just as beautiful as those romantic moments, tears and excited expressions. The natural way you interact with one another will give you the most authentic photos. Just live in the moment and be yourself. Feel everything, and don't worry about looking a certain way on camera.

Forget We're There

When we aren't shooting your posed portraits, we try to be as unobtrusive as possible, so that we can capture those great natural reactions to moments, spontaneous or planned. Being in front of a camera can make some people nervous, so that's why you are encouraged to sort of forget we are there and just enjoy everything that is happening around you.

Why You Should Consider Doing A First Look

More pictures of the two of you ♥ | Extra photos of the two of you ♥ | So many couple photos ♥



This may be your only alone time.

When you see each other for the first time down the aisle, you don't have a moment to touch, embrace or barely even speak to one another. With a first look, you are granted a special moment and intimate time with one another - time you may not normally have without one. This is well deserved alone time, and it's time that you may not want to forgo once the excitement of the wedding day sets in.

Say goodbye to nerves.

Before you say I DO, your wedding day nerves may start to develop. Couples that share a First Look normally feel more relaxed and at ease once they see each other, and since this happens before the ceremony, they feel much more comfortable when they walk down the aisle in front of all their family, friends and guests.

You will be able to fully enjoy your cocktail hour.

Many couples miss out on the casual mingling and friendly chatting of guests during cocktail hour if they choose to skip a First Look. Formal Portraits are generally taken in between the ceremony and reception which naturally is the time that cocktail hour is held. By establishing a First Look, you simply get the best of both worlds: dedicated time for your portraits and personal time with your family and friends.

6 Tips to have Stunning Getting Ready Images

Clean your ring prior to the day of the wedding. This will ensure for sparkly and crisp ring shots.

Have your getting ready details assembled and ready for your photographer to photograph. This could include a custom dress hanger, jewelry, shoes, invitations, or any other special items you may have.

Keep at least one area by a window tidy. Your photographer will be looking for a neat place with natural light to shoot your details. In the event of saving time and allowing your photographer the most ideal place to shoot these items, a clutter free area is a huge benefit.

Request to have your makeup done by a window. (Or mention to your makeup artist that your photographer asked!) Beautiful makeup shots are enhanced by directional natural light. Artificial light or positioning the makeup chair away from the light will not yield the flattering, attractive makeup shots that streaming window light will.

Allow a generous amount of time for getting ready. Rushing through detail photos may sometimes leave photographers uninspired and flustered. If you set aside enough time for detail photos, pictures of you and your squad hanging out and drinking champagne, and getting into that gorgeous dress, your day will run in a smooth and effortless manner. Typically, getting ready will set the tone for the day, and if it results in a relaxed, calm time, then your day will follow in the same manner!

Go with the flow! In some cases, the best and only space for your getting ready photos is outdoors! Sometimes we'll hang the dress on a tree branch, sometimes we'll shoot all the details on a bench or boulder outside, sometimes we even ask you if you wouldn't mind getting into that dress on your back patio! (We ensure there is enough privacy, of course!) Whatever the case, you can trust that we are making the best decisions for you based on the opportunities we are given.

let's get ready



formal photos



How Much Time Do You Need For Formal Photos

20-30 minutes for the couple

30 minutes for the entire wedding party

- includes 10 minutes for bridesmaids
- includes 10 minutes for groomsmen

20 minutes for immediate family

20-30 minutes for extended family or large group photos (this is not mandatory)

15 minutes for First Look if you choose to do one

Please note that these time frames are an estimate and can (or should) be adjusted to suit your specific needs on your wedding day. Normally extended and large group photos are taken at an alternate time to formal photos, such as during cocktail hour or at the reception where it is easier to gather large groups of people. These times will also vary depending upon the size of your wedding party, the size of your family and how you structure your day.

How much photography coverage do I need?



Typically, each client will book an eight hour collection. This is my standard package and can usually accommodate 1-1 ½ hours of getting ready up until about 30-60 minutes of dancing into the reception. Generally, this is more than adequate to capture the entire spirit of your wedding. However, in the event that any of your locations are quite a distance from one another, you always have the option to add an hour or as much extra time as you see fit. You can consider this choice up until the day before your wedding.

coverage time

On the flip side, if you think you may not require eight hours of coverage for your wedding day, custom package are available, in the range of 4-6 hours. For example, if your event takes place at one location and there is no travel involved, you may only require six hours of coverage. If, for some reason, you feel as though you don't think it's necessary to have your getting ready time photographed, and you want to begin your coverage with the ceremony, eight hours may not be essential. Since standard packages are eight hours, you will have to inquire for custom services, however.



Also Consider.....

.....how you may want to allocate your time if you are thinking about planning a formal exit, which can be a very fun option, photographically speaking, and for your guests as well. Whether it's sparklers, confetti or you're just running off into a fancy car, that may be something you want photographed and you will have to assess how to systematically utilize your time.

If you do plan a formal exit that involves sparklers, you will want to consult with your venue coordinator for permission and/or regulations that may be in place, most likely regarding the size and strength of the sparklers and the distance from the structure you must be in order to light them. Many venues have strict policies concerning sparkler exits, so discuss this option with your venue before you make a final decision.

*formal
exit*



6 Reasons Why You Need A Second Shooter

All wedding packages include two photographers - a main photographer and a second shooter. A second shooter is an additional photographer who is there to shoot the wedding alongside the main photographer. There are many reasons why her presence is so important.

1

It is impossible to be everywhere at once. If you would like photos of the two of you getting ready with your besties, one person cannot be in both locations. This issue is solved by having a second shooter. Each photographer will be able to capture each of you at your respective locations, and there will be no need for staged photos or fake redos. Everything will be natural and candid, and no moments will be missed.

2

During your wedding, it is the job of your photographer to make sure she gets all of the traditional and important shots. However, a second shooter is able to capture the more creative photos and can focus on the spontaneous moments that happen. Having two photographers ensures that you get both traditional and candid imagery, that your gallery of photos has a wide variety of images.

3

If time is of the essence, say during getting ready, having two photographers available allows us to split up some duties so that we make sure we shoot everything we need and all that you expect. While the main photographer shoots details, the second shooter can capture candid shots of the girls (or guys) having a cocktail, chatting or just hanging out. This way, we don't have to choose what we think is most important. We want to do our best for you and get it all, and this way, we do!



4

There's the unlikely chance that your photographer falls ill or gets hurt on the wedding day. If this were to happen, having the security of the second shooter is priceless because she will be able to take over without missing a beat.

5

It's also important that two photographers are shooting the event when it comes to possible equipment malfunction. In most cases, this will not happen, but if it does, we are known to have two main cameras each with us, plus backup cameras as well.

6

Finally, a second shooter brings her own experience and different perspectives as well. Even a main shooter can take a suggestion or tip from the second that she hadn't thought of or seen and that will just guarantee you a more dynamic gallery of images.

*second
shooter*

*your
consult*



What is a Pre-Event Consult?

A pre-event consult is set in place so that we get an opportunity to meet and talk about your wedding and set expectations before the big day arrives. We will talk about your timeline and schedule, when we will photograph family and wedding party formals, whether or not you are having a first look, what time we will arrive, what major points and aspects of the day we need to focus on, and when our time is complete. We will review the entire schedule of the day to ensure that we are on the same page and that we know exactly where to be at what time. If you have any questions or are uncertain about a few things, this is the perfect time to ask. Additionally, if you did not have an engagement session with me, this is a great time to briefly get to know you and hopefully helps us feel comfortable with one another. This consult benefits both of us because you will be set at ease and feel confident that I have my part of your wedding day covered, and I will know exactly what you expect of me which helps me prepare accordingly for your day.

How to Look Your Best on Your Wedding Day

Hair + Makeup

Be sure to have your hair and makeup professionally done. This is a must. And don't forget your trial run before the big day.

Tanning

While I *strongly* recommend against getting an artificial tan, if you insist, there are a few guidelines you should follow. Avoid tan lines especially if you are wearing a strapless dress. Plan your final session at least two weeks before your big day. Do not over do it. You will look orange in your photos. I promise. There is not much that makeup can do to tackle skin that has an orange tint.

Accessories

Try on your dress with different accessories you think you might want to wear on your wedding day. Accessories can definitely enhance your look or create a certain style that you are trying to achieve.

Shoes

Be sure to walk around in your shoes before the wedding day, especially if they are a heel height that is higher than you normally wear. You can get them worn in and get a little practice walking in them as well. Think about scuffing them up in the event that you have a slippery dance floor, and if you will be walking in grass, heel protectors are basically mandatory!

Eat + Drink

An effective way to help you look your best is to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water leading up to your wedding day and on the day itself. Be sure to eat so that you avoid the chance that you may pass out or get a headache. And if you are going to drink alcohol, try to limit the amount you drink before the ceremony and photos. There's no reason for unfortunate red wine spills or some drunken mishaps that can't be undone. There's plenty of time at the reception for you to enjoy your cocktails!



must
haves



Must Have Shot List

You can trust that we have the wedding day thing down to a science. From your bridal details to the reception centerpieces, we are primed to capture it all. Here are some must have shots that we always make sure to get, and this is just the short list!

The Happy Couple

- The First Look
- The First Kiss
- Individual Portraits
- The Walking Shot
- Attire Details
- Snuggling
- Sunset Shots

Bridal Party

- The Entire Gang
- Bridesmaids
- Groomsmen
- Ring Bearers + Flower Girls
- Bride with Each Bridesmaid + Groom with Each Groomsman (time permitting)

Formal Photos

- Parents with Couple
- Siblings with Couple
- Grandparents with Couple
- Immediate Families with Couple
- Extended Family
- Special Group Photos

The Details

- Bouquets + Boutonnieres
- Wedding Rings
- Bride Accessories
- Groom Accessories
- Reception Centerpieces
- Cake + Favors



10 Tips For Your Wedding Day

- Tip 1** Create a detailed timeline of your wedding day that includes when all vendors are to arrive, when hair and makeup will be done from start to finish, etc. Include exact times and locations. Share with all 'day of' vendors, including your photographer.
- Tip 2** Have food on hand while you are getting ready. It's important for you to stay hydrated and nourished, so focus on eating healthy foods/snacks and drinking plenty of water.
- Tip 3** Practice walking in your wedding day shoes to make sure they are comfortable for standing in photos and wearing for the duration of your day. If you are in pain or feel discomfort, it may be evident in your photos and that's not something you want to portray. Another option is to have a more comfortable, back up shoe for the reception.
- Tip 4** Pack a "wedding day emergency kit" and bring it along with you on the big day. Essentials items include a Tide pen, pain relievers, a sewing kit, clear nail polish, Band Aids, tissues, breath mints, scissors and make up for touch ups.
- Tip 5** Have your cake and flowers arrive at the latest possible moment if your wedding will be held on a hot day in the summer. Flowers tend to wilt and cakes can melt on humid days, so it may be a good idea to discuss these details with the appropriate vendors. Plus, wilting flowers and melting cakes are not ideal for your photos.

*tips
tips
tips*

Tips Tips Tips

Tip 6 Designate someone you trust to keep an eye on your appearance. For example, you'll want to know if you have fly away hair, lipsticks on your teeth or bra straps showing.

Tip 7 Order at least 25 extra wedding invitations than you think you'll need. It's better to have extras "just in case" and often times it's less expensive to buy in bulk than order just a few extra.

Tip 8 Follow up with your vendors a week before the wedding (if they have not contacted you already) to make sure that everything is in place and ready to go. Should there have been any miscommunication prior to this week, this is the time to confirm that everyone will be where they are supposed to be and when.

Tip 9 Pad your timeline. It does not hurt to have a few extra minutes here and there in the event that something does not go exactly according to plan. And if you have that extra time, you will not be troubled with any stress or feelings of urgency. It's virtually inevitable that the timeline may go slightly askew, but adding a buffer will prevent your schedule from going extremely off course.

Tip 10 Expect the unexpected. Sometimes things don't go as planned and that's OK. Unpredictable things often happen at a wedding event, and if you trust your vendors, you will feel confident that they will handle anything that comes their way. Your outlook and attitude is what's important, and that will dictate the success of your day.



Photographer Wedding Terminology 101



Traditional

Traditional wedding photos are the standard portraits, poses and elements taken at weddings. These are the images that are expected from every wedding client and we make sure to capture them. Examples include: your first kiss, you two coming down the aisle, your first dance, cutting the cake, etc.

Candid

Candid images are photos that are not planned, but happen in the moment. They are taken as they occur, and are usually very different at every wedding. These images are not posed or directed; they are genuine and spontaneous.

Details

Detail shots are just that -- photos of details like flowers, rings, centerpieces, the cake, jewelry, etc.

Editing

Editing is the common term for the color correction of your images in the post production process. This is the process in which we spend time adjusting tint, temperature and exposure (among other things) to make your images suitable for personal usage and printing.

Retouching

During the editing task, retouching is the process that allows for removal of blemishes, unwanted objects, or any other detail that goes beyond the scope of basic editing. This is usually done by a professional photographic lab.

Formals

Formal photos are the group photos of your family, extended family and wedding party. There is a designated time during the wedding day when we shoot these images in order to ensure that you get the exact group photos that you want. They are normally posed and the participants are looking at the camera and smiling.

RAW

This term is used to describe the digital files before they go through the editing process.

Jpeg

A JPEG is the type of file your images are converted to after they have been edited. This is the format in which most images are printed.

Golden Hour

This is the time of day (near dusk) when the light is warm and glowy, and undeniably most flattering (and arguably a photographer's favorite time of day). If you have a sunny day on tap for your wedding, make sure you incorporate a few minutes of time for photos at golden hour.

photo
speak

Digital Negatives

Digital photographers use memory cards instead of film. Digital negatives can also be called digital files or digital images. Your photos are presented in an online gallery rather than in the form of a printed proof. You have the option to download and print your photos straight from your gallery.

Cull

This is the process where we eliminate “bad” or duplicate images from what will be your final gallery. Images that are deemed bad are shots where your eyes are closed, you make a weird face, or the lighting is unacceptable. Duplicates are also removed to keep your gallery varied and streamlined.

Hi Res

This is the term for high resolution and means your files are adequate or ideal for printing.

Low Res

This is short for low resolution and means that your images are not suitable for printing. They may be used on social media or any other online purpose where high resolution is not necessary.

A La Carte

Products selected a la carte are items purchased individually and separate from a package.





LFP



I'd love to hear from you!
Here's how to get in touch!

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