

Essential Wedding Shots

Before your wedding, give your photographer – or a responsible bridesmaid or family member – a list of the wedding photographs you absolutely must have. This will ensure that no one gets missed and you won't be disappointed when you get your images back.

This list will give you some ideas of the types of shots normally taken at a ceremony.

Your photographer is likely to capture most of these, but be sure to let him/her know the ones that are most important to you, and leave the rest to your photographer's creative eye.

Don't be too rigid in your photography planning. Candid shots are usually the ones you cherish most after the wedding.

[Wedding Photography – A Guide To Posing](#) is a great book with practical advice and inspiring examples to help you come up with a perfect wedding photo plan.

1 Before the Ceremony

- Wedding dress lying over a chair or hanging on a hook
- The bride's garter, veil, and shoes arranged on a stool or dresser.
- The bridesmaids zipping or lacing up the wedding dress.
- Mother of the bride fastening the bride's necklace or helping with the dress.
- Bride sitting at a dresser looking in a mirror.
- The bride pinning corsage/boutonniere on mother/father.
- Bride hugging parents.
- Groom tying his tie.
- Groom standing with or hugging his parents.
- The groomsmen playing golf, poker, or horsing around with the guys before the ceremony begins.
- The wedding party leaving for the ceremony.

2 At the Ceremony

- Guests walking into the ceremony site.
- Parents and grandparents being seated.
- Flower girl sprinkling flowers down the aisle.
- Bridesmaids walking down the aisle.
- Groom standing nervously at the front of the aisle.
- Bride and father entering ceremony site.
- Bride being handed over by her father. Bride and father hugging and father and groom shaking hands.
- Bride and groom standing beside altar or under canopy while celebrant performs the ceremony.
- Friends and family members performing readings or musical numbers.

- Close up of the bride.
- Close up of the ring pillow / box.
- Close up of the rings being exchanged.
- Bride and groom performing the unity ceremony.
- The signing of the register.
- Close ups of the bride and groom as they say their vows.
- Bride and groom sharing their first kiss as husband and wife.
(An experienced celebrant will step aside before announcing the kiss to get out of the way)
- Bride and groom walking up the aisle as guests clap, or throw rice/confetti, or blow bubbles.
- Bride and groom hugging guests, laughing, being congratulated.

3 Family Photographs

- Bride and groom with the wedding party.
- Bride and groom with bride's parents.
- Bride and groom with groom's parents.
- Bride and groom with all parents and siblings.
- Bride and groom with their extended families.
- Bride and groom with specific groups of friends
(for example: their sports club, or a group that met at university).
- Photograph of all the guests together – serious / funny.

4 Bridal Portraits

- Bride and her bridesmaids together – serious / funny
- Groom and his groomsmen together – serious / funny
- Bride and maid of honour together.
- Bride alone, full-length portrait of dress.

- Groom and best man together.
- Bride and groom together, kissing, staring adoringly at each other, pulling funny faces.
- Bride and groom with flower girl and ring bearer.
- Groomsmen posing with the wedding car.
- Whole bridal party together.

5 The Reception

- Place settings, favours, and centrepieces.
- Other decorations.
- The wedding cake.
- The head table.
- The guest book and gift table.
- Bridal party entering the reception.
- People giving speeches.
- The MC.
- The buffet table, or pictures of the dinner serving if the meal includes table service.
- Bride and groom cutting the cake.
- The first dance.
- Guests dancing.
- Guests having fun and being silly.
- The garter toss and bouquet toss.
- Bride and groom leaving the reception.

6 Other shots not to miss? Add your own list on the back

See the [WeddingWise Lookbook](#) for more wedding photo ideas and inspiration.