



J. Cameron
PHOTOGRAPHY



Getting Ready

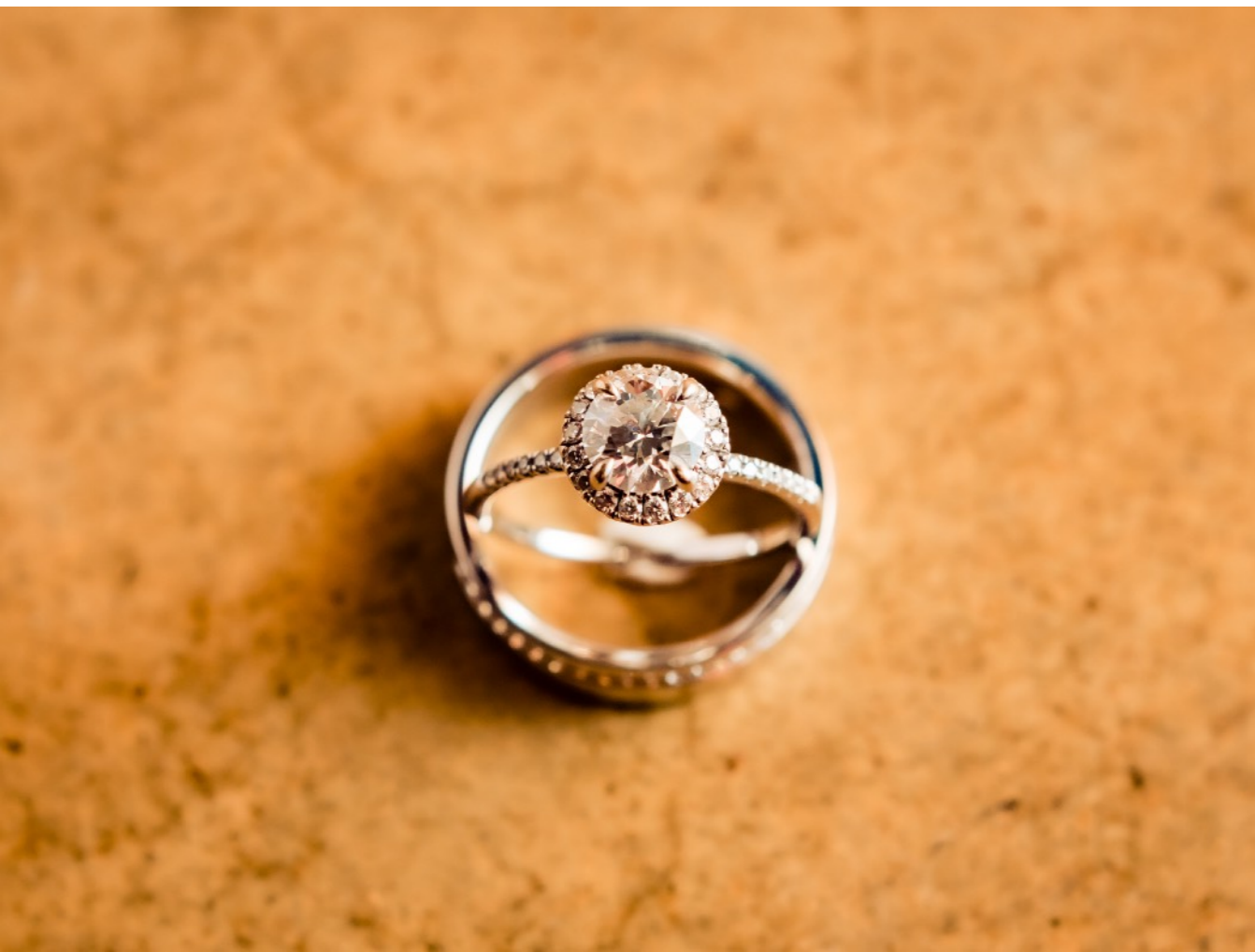
Determine before your wedding day how long it will take your hair and makeup to be completed

Getting ready for your wedding day can take a lot of time. You have to worry about making sure you and your bridal party's hair and makeup are done, getting into your dress and putting on all of your wedding day accessories. Doing a trial with your hair and makeup artist will be the best way to determine how long it will take for you to be completely made up for your day. But on average it will take about 90 minutes for hair and makeup to be completed for the bride and about 45 minutes for each bridesmaid and mother of the bride/groom. If you have 4 bridesmaids with a 4PM ceremony start time, it is a good idea to have hair and makeup started between 9:30-10am.

If you are wanting photography coverage of you getting ready, try having your photographer arrive roughly 90 minutes before your wedding ceremony. If you're doing a first look, adjust it to 2 1/2 to 3 hours before. This is to ensure that all of your details are captured along with photos of you getting the final touches of your hair and makeup done.

Some tips to make this process easier:

- Lay out the necessary details that you would like to have captured.
- Shoes, jewelry, invitation suite, bouquet, garter, are a few to consider. Flat lay accessories are also useful to bring. Purchase a nice wooden hanger for your dress to get some beautiful dress shots. Have your future spouse prep their details too: cologne, cuff links, shoes, suit jackets, and boutonnieres are worth capturing too.
- Create a cushion just in case there are delays



Ceremony

Decide on the important parts for your wedding ceremony and discuss with your officiant on how much time to allot for everything

The average ceremony lasts approximately 20-30 minutes from processional to recessional. Note that processions tend to take a big chunk of time, so be sure to factor how big family and bridal party are and the time that it will take for them to be positioned from walking down the aisle. Also be sure to consider the special traditions - whether religious or cultural - that you would like to incorporate into your ceremony. Be sure to factor time for any readings, prayers, or songs as well.

Something additional to take into consideration is that ceremonies may not always start on time. It is good to block out about an hour in your timeline even though you think that your ceremony will only last for 20 minutes. If you expect for your ceremony to last for 45 minutes, a 90 minute block will be useful.





Cocktail Hour and Formals

Plan for 60-90 minutes for cocktail hour

Cocktail hour is the most popular time for formal photos. It is recommended to allot for 20-30 minutes for family formals, 30 minutes for bridal party, and 30 minutes for bride and groom formals.

Family Formals

No family is alike. Some are bigger than others and it is really hard to narrow down the best groupings during this time. I recommend deciding on 10 family formal groupings with 1 or 2 that includes all of the extended family (aunts/uncles/cousins) with the rest that are broken down for your intermediate family. Here are some examples:

- Bride/Groom with Groom's Parents
- Bride/Groom with Bride's Parents
- Bride/Groom with Groom's Parents/Siblings
- Bride/Groom with Bride's Parents/Siblings
- Bride/Groom with Groom's Grandparents
- Bride/Groom with Bride's Grandparents
- Bride/Groom with all family members

Bridal Party

This is the time to showcase your closest friends! Since it's normal for guys to get ready pretty fast, I like to have the groom and groomsmen get their formals out of the way before the ceremony, if the time allows. This way they only have to do full bridal party photos after the ceremony and then they're done.

Bride and Groom

Definitely don't cut this time short. The night goes by pretty fast and you want to maximize the time with your spouse. Think of some exciting things to share and talk about, talk about how excited you are to be married. Be flirtatious!

Reception

The reception is where all the fun is! You have the chance to rest your nerves from before the ceremony and enjoy this time with your spouse, family and friends! Decide on all the events that you would like to cover throughout the evening. Are you going to do a bouquet and garter toss? Are there any special dances or games that you want to do? Making this decision is the first step so that you know how much time to allot for each. Plan for about 10-15 minutes for each event. If you have a pretty large guest list (100 or more) be sure to plan for an hour for people to have all received and eaten their dinner. You can also do toasts towards the end of dinner once everyone has had a chance to be served.

Here is an example reception timeline:

- 6:00 Introductions
- 6:15 First Dances
- 6:30 Dinner
- 7:30 Toasts
- 7:50 Open Dancing
- 8:35 Cake Cutting
- 8:45 Bouquet/Garter Toss
- 9:00 Open Dancing
- 9:50 Last Dance
- 10:00 Exit



Wedding Day Timeline

8:00 Hair & Makeup Begins

1:00 Groom and Groomsmen Arrive at Venue

1:00 Hair and Makeup Complete

1:30 Photography Coverage Begins

1:55-2:10 Bridesmaids get dressed/Groom & Groomsmen Get Dressed

2:10-2:30 Bride gets into her dress

2:30-3:30 First Look/Bridal Party Photos

3:30 - Bridal Party Tucked Away

4:00-5:00 Ceremony

5:00-6:00 Cocktail Hour

5:00-5:30 Family Photos at Ceremony Site

5:45 - Guests begin to move into Reception

6:00 - Formal Bridal Party Announcements

6:15 - First Dance/Father-Daughter Dance/Mother-Son Dance

6:30 - Dinner

7:15 - Toasts

7:35 - Open Dance Floor

8:15 - Cake Cutting

8:50 - Bouquet

9:00 - Last Call

9:30 - Sparkler Exit