

# Our Top 14 Planning Pitfalls and how to avoid them!

**#1 - Ceremony music.** Not choosing your ceremony music (Entrance of Bridal Party, Entrance of Bride, Recessional) until the last minute. Know what equipment is provided and who will take care of playing the music (fading in and fading out) for you. At Golden Horseshoe Weddings, our Asst. Wedding planner takes care of all of this for you.

**#2 - Plan the Toasts!** Not designating someone to give a toast with plenty of advance notice. Toasts are typically given by the Maid of Honor, Best Man, and sometimes parents of the bride and groom. Discuss this well ahead of time, so those who will be speaking have time to write something wonderful. Decide whether the “floor should be opened” after the scheduled speeches are done.

**#3 - Pre Plan Your Processional.** A group discussion on the day of the wedding, can be extremely time consuming. Take the time to pre plan the order of the processional. Think about whether any “honored guests” such as grandparents or parents will be seated, and by whom. Then determine the order for the bridal party, and officiant. On the wedding day your planner can run a quick rehearsal to make sure everyone is on the same page. Your Golden Horseshoe Wedding Planner and Asst. Wedding planner will help you create a great processional order and will rehearse bridal party on the wedding day!

**#4 - Write Personal vows ahead of time.** If you have decided to write personal wedding vows, it is so easy to leave writing them to the last minute. Wedding days run the smoothest when *nothing* is left until the last minute. If your dress doesn't have a pocket, make sure you know who will hand the vows to you. Your Golden Horseshoe planner will make sure you (or your best man, or MOH) have the vows in hand before the ceremony begins!

**#5 - Forgetting to eat and stay hydrated.** It is so easy to forget to eat and hydrate on a day as busy and exciting as your wedding day. Assign a family member or bridal party member to bring you a snack on the wedding day. The combination of tight / heavy attire, and warm weather, and excitement can make you feel light headed if you have skipped food and water. Your Golden Horseshoe wedding planner can bring you a drink and snack if needed - just ask!

**#6 - Choosing attire that is uncomfortable.** Go ahead and bring some comfy shoes for your wedding day. You can wear those epic shoes for portraits if you like, but as the day wears on, you'll be so glad you brought something soft to change into. Same goes for your dress or suit. Be sure to choose attire that is appropriate for your time of year - you'll be happy you nixed the 3 piece black suit for an August wedding, or that you went ahead and got a faux fur wrap for your December wedding day. Being comfy will help you enjoy your day 100x more!

**#7 - Forgetting the bustling instructions for your gown.** Your final gown fitting is such an exciting and emotional time. Be sure a family member or bridal party member writes down or films exact instructions on how to bustle your gown. It is very easy to forget by the wedding day.

**#8 - Self Catering.** It is so tempting to save money by self-catering, but this is one area where it is truly worth it to have professionals take care of things for you. Feeding a large group of people, and making sure food stays safe, hot and ready (especially when wedding days are notorious for running behind) can be very stressful. Allow your family and friends to enjoy the day, and not assign them this overwhelming task. Golden Horseshoe couples can save money by hiring a “Drop Off” catering package, where food is simply dropped off 30 minutes prior to meal time, and the GHI staff will unpack, and lay out on the buffet table for you! Many of our area caterers offer drop off packages that start around \$12 per person!

**#9 - Relying too heavily on friends and family for set up and clean up.** Family relationships and friendships can be tested by the stress and time constraints of a wedding day. Expecting your parents or bridal party to arrive at the venue super early to decorate, have time to get into their wedding attire and then party with you until the evening, at which time they have to change clothes and begin the clean up, can be exhausting for everyone. Hire a planner or have your venue take care of set up and clean up for you. Golden Horseshoe Weddings include all set up and clean up, so you can all relax and enjoy the day!

**#10 - Not budgeting enough time for hair and makeup.** This is the area where most wedding day timelines go off the rails. The trick is to budget the correct amount of time and then to add in a little extra padding for unexpected glitches (a broken zipper, eye shadow that needs to be redone, a forgotten curling iron). Having hair and makeup run on time, means you’ll get the most out of your day, and have more time for amazing wedding photos. Do a trial run of hair and makeup and then add 30 minutes!

**#11 - Too many people in the dressing room.** A calm and relaxed dressing room can help you feel relaxed and in control of your day. Everyone on a wedding day comes with a pile of garment bags, coffee cups, makeup cases, making the dressing room cluttered and chaotic. We recommend limiting the size of your bridal party to your very nearest and dearest and asking that babies and children get ready elsewhere. Having ring bearers and flower girls arrive at the venue already dressed is very helpful!

**#12 - Not having a great Plan B for inclement weather.** I always get nervous when a bride says “if it rains, my day will be absolutely ruined”...weather is the one thing none of us can control, so make sure your venue has a weather plan ready to go. At Golden Horseshoe we have an indoor ceremony location in case of rain, fans to go on each ceremony seat for hot days, and an adorable collection of wedding umbrellas for rainy day outdoor photos if needed! Choosing to embrace the weather will let you enjoy your day and get amazing photos no matter what.

**#13 - Not providing guests with timing details or directions to the venue.** Make sure you include simple to follow driving directions to your guests so they can easily find your venue. Let them know what to expect in terms of whether a meal will be served, or light refreshments only. Let them know what time they should arrive at the venue and what time the event will conclude.

**#14 - Not having realistic expectations of your friends and family.** There are some tough personalities in every family and friend group. We’ve found that personalities don’t change just because it’s your wedding day. Insulate yourself from disappointment by having realistic expectations.