

MALE PERSPECTIVE: *what he's thinking*

By Katharine Gardner

There is a notion out there that the wedding is all about the bride. Where did that start, and why do we perpetuate it? We know that weddings are really about the union between you and your fiancé, not just how gorgeous you look that day. We also know that the groom should not feel like a guest at his own wedding. So we talked to recently married men and found out something interesting: most husbands actually wish they were more involved than they were in planning their wedding.

The planning often ends up on your shoulders, or shared with your mom

and even your bridesmaids. You might assume that your fiancé just does not care about the details. This can lead to resentment on both sides, however. Not only are you resentful that you have to do all of the planning, but he ends up being resentful that it's not "your day together" and that he had no part in making the day special.

There are some details that your fiancé might not care that much about – like the bridesmaids' dresses or the colors of table centerpieces. Definitely ask him, though, as soon as you begin planning the wedding, what IS important to him.

BELOW ARE THE TOP 5 PIECES OF WEDDING PLANNING THAT WE FOUND WERE MOST IMPORTANT TO MEN:

1. Music (finding the DJ, speakers, playlist, etc...)
2. Liquor (planning what type of liquor to serve)
3. Transportation (booking limos, figuring out parking, etc...)
4. Tux and Grooms men rentals (deciding what his party will wear and arranging rentals)
5. Lighting (men tend to be more interested in electronics and details like this, so let them plan it!)



Opinions from recently married men:

"It was such an important day for me. I wish that I had helped with more of the planning so that the ceremony could better reflect us."

- Jeremy

"I'm glad that I was as involved in the planning as I was because when the day finally came, I was able to have a little more control, so when problems happened, I knew how to take care of them so my wife didn't have to worry about everything."

- Caleb

"I know it might sound weird, but we had an outdoor wedding and one of the things I was responsible for was choosing the bathrooms. I had no idea there were so many options of port-a-potties (and that they were so expensive) but I ended up going with a relatively "high end" set. She, and the guests, were so appreciative of the bathrooms because they had running water and room for the women to change and re-do their make-up. It was nice to be appreciated and know that I made the wedding go a lot smoother just by spending some time on this detail."

- Derryl

"I probably should have been more involved in the wedding planning because I saw my wife get really stressed out. Honestly, I didn't really care as much as her about it, so I thought that she would enjoy organize everything. I didn't realize how much work the wedding planning was – and that it was just unfair to expect her to do everything."

- Armando