

## Photographer's Emergency Kit

The Boy Scout's Motto is *Be Prepared* – to this day I still prepare for the worst and hope for the best. After over 11 years of professional photography, I've learned a few things to keep with me, tried and true necessities, that will keep your wedding day or family photography session as stress-free and comfortable as possible.

I bring each of these with me for any type of session – though sometimes I may keep them in my car rather than carry it with me during the actual session. And as you probably can guess, each has a story behind it

**Mirror/Compact:** Still a tried and true necessity!

**Baby Powder:** Great to keep cool and not chap.

**Small Sewing Kit & Safety Pins:** I usually keep the small “assorted” colored threads one with me because there are many different colors of dresses, plus safety pins and buttons.

**Small Swiss Army Knife & Pair of Scissors:** Nothing is more used in my kit than my knife and small scissors – things need to be cut all the time: hanging straps, tags, loose threads, even a last minute hemming.

**Butane Lighter:** Not just for lighting cigarettes!

**Flashlight:** You never know when you might need this!

**Bobby pins & extra hair ties:** This is a staple in my kit. They tie and fix everything – not just for hair!

**Boutonnière pins:** There have been so many times where a pin had broken or was lost in the shuffle of the day. I keep a box just for this reason.

**Mints:** Everybody loves a mint! I keep Altoids in my kit. I do not keep gum because sometimes there's no where to throw it away.

**Protein bars:** I keep at least 2 in my bag in case someone gets hungry.

**Tide Bleach Pen:** Because stains happen.

**Tweezers, nail clippers, clear nail polish, nail polish remover, and nail file:** I keep nail polish remover in a mini spray bottle for easy application. The clear nail polish does wonders for runs in pantyhose, tears in the veil, or a last minute glue job if necessary. The nail clippers can be used to clip small threads or tags in a pinch, tweezers for just about everything else.

**Tissues & Handkerchiefs:** Anything more than a beautiful wedding glow and I got your back. Tissues are for tears; remember to “pat” and never rub.

**Jellied Bandana or Towel:** Hot days sometimes need something that will keep people cool without leaving wetness behind. Those super-shammies as seen on TV actually can come in handy.

**Lint Roller:** A staple for anyone with pets.

**Bug Spray:** OFF! Brand “Smooth&Dry” powder formula. It’s not sticky or greasy and smells halfway decent.

**Hand-Sanitizer:** This is for everything.

**Fashion Tape:** It goes to fixing every fashion mishap I can think of- minus a broken zipper that needed actual sewing repair. It can also be used photographically as a stand in for jewelry wax or setting up small macro or detail shots.

**Chapstick/Lip Balm:** I always put a new Chapstick or lip balm in my bag for each wedding. And I just give them to whomever needs it – I will never reuse Chapstick or lip balm once it is used.

**Zip ties:** Because you never know!

**Q-Tips:** Always a staple, I like to use them especially for lipstick applications. Once applied, make a small “O” with your lips, then twirl one end of the q-tip through the hole and pull it out. This will keep any excess lipstick from transferring to your teeth.

**Crochet Hook:** Faster and easier way to help the bridal party put the bride in her dress with those “hoops that loop over the button” type of dresses.

**First Aid Kit & Bandages:** For the cuts, scrapes, bruises, and blisters in between.

**Super Glue:** Can be used in a pinch to fix broken nails, and stop small cuts from bleeding.

**Hair Brush & Combs:** These disposable brushes and combs have saved the day several times!

**Chalk, Bubbles, & a Stuffed Animal:** A quick way to distract the kids

**Dog Treats:** A quick way to distract the “other” kids

**Android and Apple Wall Charger:** Because the last thing you want is your phone dying on your wedding day!