

Always be prepared

All your news essentials
24H

CAROLYN MCTIGHE - There is an old saying that claims there are only four things a bride needs on her wedding day - something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue.

This familiar mantra has been used by brides as a pre-wedding guidepost for years, but is in need of a revamp.

Andrea Lown, founder of *SmartBride-Boutique.com*, believes there are 20 essential items every bride should have to ensure no snafus on her wedding day.

These items range from everyday fare to the unusual.

"I've divided the list into two sections for both a practical bride and a MacGyver Bride," says Lown, referring to the Vancouver-shot ad-



Hope for the best, prepare for the worst.

venture show featuring a mullet-clad secret agent who could defuse situations with his pocketknife.

"The practical stuff is a little boring, but helpful, while the MacGyver stuff is a bit more 'out of the box' and

includes some amazing products people might not know about."

So whether you're the bride-to-be or you know someone who is, here are 20 must-have items every bride should have in their Bridal Survival Kit.

The lowdown:

PRACTICAL ITEMS

- Kleenex
- Lip stain
- Q-tips
- Stain remover pen
- Safety Pins
- Flat shoes
- Charged cell phone
- Deodorant
- Bobby pins and mini hair-spray
- Medication

MACGYVER ITEMS

- Double-sided fashion tape
- Wine Wipes
- Disposable booties
- Blister kit
- Model mirror (LED compact mirror)
- Baby powder
- Listerine Pocket Pack
- Breath Strips
- Visine eye drops
- Shoe savers
- White chalk

VOWS THAT WOW

Tell them how and why you love them

JOANNE RICHARD - Deliver vows that wow. So many couples obsess about the visuals in the church but what about the sound effects?

"More couples are writing their own vows than in years past," says Tracey Manaiescu, a wedding planner and former officiate with All Seasons Church of Canada. "I always encouraged my couples to share their love with their guests," she said, adding personalized vows give a flare of individuality and make the guests part of the ceremony.

"I married a couple that wanted something very unique to them. She walked down the aisle to the Star Wars theme."

She says the secret to great vows is being true to the couple. "It needs to be about them; if they are humorous, than add something funny and quirky that is special to them.

"If they are romantic, then

speak about why they fell in love, how they fell in love, and why it will last forever."

When coming up with your own vows, Manaiescu suggests keeping it short, sweet and "family" friendly. "Long, drawn out ceremonies put people to sleep." Sexual innuendo in vows is not appropriate.

She adds she has officiated at some very memorable ceremonies. "I married a couple that wanted something very unique to them. She walked down the aisle to the Star Wars theme."

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