

What To Do When It Rains On Your Wedding Day



One of the questions Atlanta elopement and wedding planners get asked the most is, "Will it rain on my wedding day?"

It is impossible to answer, but we can be perfectly prepared so we know exactly what will happen if nature decides to bless you with a shower on your big day.

Even for intimate weddings and elopements we strongly recommend venues with a rain backup venue. As your Atlanta elopement planner we truly hope the heavens won't open, but if they do chances are it won't rain all day long. So let's divide the wedding day into 3 stages and look at how to deal with rain during different times of the day.

THE CEREMONY

If you are having an outdoors ceremony you will need to make the rain call in plenty of time to allow the ceremony set-up to be finished on time. If you are having elaborate florals that may mean deciding many hours before the ceremony. Calmly consult with your wedding planner, partner and a trusted phone weather app (the ones with satellite tech in real time are the best) and make an informed decision.

Depending on the time of day your ceremony is you may have the option of delaying and waiting for the rain to stop. This is easy for micro weddings and elopements since there aren't too many guests to inform. But remember delaying walking down the aisle can cut into your couple photo session time after the ceremony. Be accepting if you decide to move inside and then it doesn't actually rain. The weather can be so unpredictable.

It's very rare that rain will start to fall during the ceremony, but it is possible. In this case your celebrant should be in total charge of what will happen. Ask your celebrant before the wedding day what they will say in case of rain.

Check if your venue will have staff with umbrellas on standby if rain is threatening. In that case your celebrant will calmly tell guests staff will pass the umbrellas out as a signal to them to do exactly that. The celebrant will also give guests an option of moving to cover if possible or to stay and watch the ceremony from their chairs. Finally if the rain gets very heavy the celebrant will stop the ceremony and move everyone inside. Trust your celebrant to lead the way in every situation including those created by Mother Nature.

YOUR COUPLE PHOTOS

Your photographer will take the lead on the day for where to go for photos if it's raining. Some photographers will offer a complimentary 1 hour photo shoot after the wedding day for couples whose day is completely rained out with no opportunity for outdoors photography. Or you can negotiate this as part of your wedding photography package in advance. While your hair and make-up won't be the same, you can do your own, get to put your dress on again and get some beautiful bridal images.

If you suspect rain the day before the wedding ask your photographer to have a neutral-colored, unbranded big umbrella on hand for your photos. Umbrella photos can be stunningly beautiful and romantic.

THE RECEPTION

If you are having an outdoors reception you need to have a plan B in case of rain. Your venue, wedding planner and catering team will advise you on if it's necessary to move indoors. One of the biggest concerns is the food. If you are outside and it rains it is very difficult to salvage food and the quality will be compromised. This can have a follow-on effect including running behind schedule, unhappy guests and feeling major stressed out.

Listen to the pros if they recommend moving indoors. While it might be disappointing you can still have a wonderful wedding reception and enjoy the evening. Take a moment, breath and sip some wine then dance the night away!

Don't worry too much about something that might not even happen. Remember being prepared with a backup venue in case of rain is key. And being emotionally prepared with the comfort of knowing what will happen in case it rains is essential.

If it rains on your wedding day you won't be a panicked, wild bride sprinting for cover with an expensive hairstyle turning into a hot mess. You will be a picture of grace and calmness with a

smile on your face. Your groom will hold your hand and you will pause for a romantic smooch as the rain softly falls. The rings will be exchanged, you will kiss, laugh and dance and love will fill the air wherever you end up celebrating your wedding day.