

Wearing your hair up will keep your look locked in from ceremony through reception.



What Works

Getting your hair and makeup just right can be as stressful as searching for the ultimate gown. To put your nerves at ease, we asked the pros for tips on what (and, frankly, what not) to do to ensure a flawless appearance. *By Nina J. Judar*

HAIR THAT HOLDS

Nothing puts a damper on a perfectly polished coif like humidity. When it comes to holding up, up, in fact, is the best way to go. "If you have a full updo, you can be very confident that your hair will stay in place for the duration of the event," says John Barrett, owner of his namesake Manhattan salon, on Bergdorf Goodman's top floor. "And most of the time, an updo has the kind of formality that suits the dress," adds New York hairstylist and makeup artist Ilise Harris.

If your heart's set on wearing your hair down, consider how the style will evolve, particularly during an outdoor ceremony or reception; neatly defined curls aren't likely to survive a beach wedding. Harris recently encouraged a bride whose ceremony was to be on the sand in St. Thomas to embrace a looser texture for her ringlets. "When the wind and humidity relaxed the curls, it would look organic" instead of undone, she explains.

Choosing a half-updo? You should still consider pinning your hair away from your face, to foil wind and perspiration, two hazards even at a fairy-tale wedding. "Princess Diana's bangs were wet with sweat by the end of her ceremony," Barrett says. Hairpieces also offer extra protection; they're treated so they won't react to moisture-rich weather. Barrett inserts a piece at the crown and, if necessary, two smaller ones on each side, above the ear, to mask any frizz underneath.

WEATHERING A DRY SPELL

If you have a case of dry skin, "cleansers are usually the culprit," says Miami Beach dermatologist Leslie Baumann. "Anything that bubbles, suds or foams strips away your lipids"—skin's protective barrier, which helps retain moisture. At least four weeks before your wedding, switch to a mild cleanser, like Cetaphil Gentle (\$10.50), paired with a rich cream, such as Atopalm (\$36; skinstore.com), Baumann's