

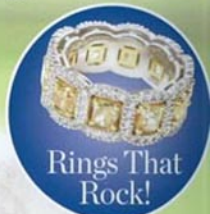
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seven unexpected ways to save your big day

Top planners reveal their must-have secret weapons for tackling most any bridal emergency—all for under \$10!



diaper pins Broken bustle? Laurie Arons, of Sausalito, Calif., who has worked with **Christy Turlington-Burns**, says diaper pins (\$1 for set of four; at baby stores) are far stronger than safety pins for wedding-dress mishaps.

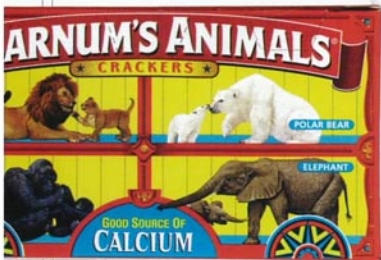
first-aid tape A loose hem doesn't have to trip you up. In a pinch Minneapolis wedding planner Geri Wolf fastens hems with medical tape: "It's sturdy and easy to hide beneath the dress" (Johnson & Johnson's First Aid Tape, \$4; at drugstores).



white chalk No matter how big or small, a last-minute stain can whip any bride into a frenzy. The fastest fix, according to Wolf, is white chalk: "Draw it on a pure white dress and it'll cover up virtually any stain in an instant." (\$1 for a box of 16; at art stores.)



crochet hook "Sometimes it can take a half hour to fasten a bride into her dress," says Arons, who shortens the task to a mere minute or two with the help of a crochet hook (\$3; at craft stores). The tool efficiently tackles all those teeny buttons. One less thing to fret about!



animal crackers Pre-wedding jitters can banish a bride's appetite. Chicago coordinator Lisa Gia Bascomb says nibbling on a sweet snack like animal crackers (\$2 a box; at supermarkets) helps keep blood-sugar levels up, and since they're bite-size, they won't leave crumbs behind.



apple Mints might spruce up your breath temporarily, but according to New York City planner Francesca Abbracciamento, who has planned events for **Harrison Ford**, nothing kills halitosis like an apple. "It attacks the odor from your stomach and keeps breath fresher the whole day," she explains. —L.B.