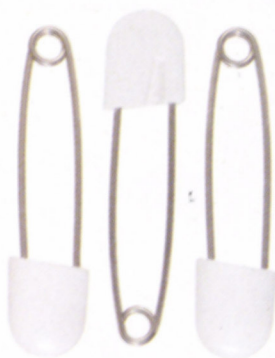


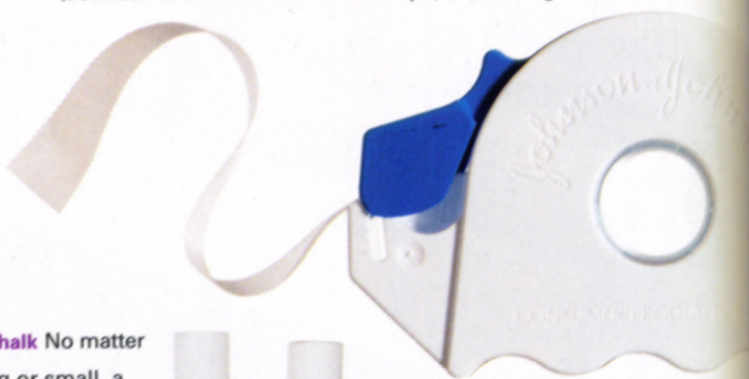
seven unexpected ways to save your big day

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.

sandpaper The soles of new shoes can be dangerously slippery, so planner Karen Kaforey of Nashville, Tenn., rubs sandpaper (about \$1 per sheet; at hardware stores) on the bottoms of clients' shoes. Potential wipeout averted!

