Best man outfit: what to wear and what to check

Wear what the couple ask you to wear. Usually that means matching the groom’s party with a small difference so he still reads as the groom. Confirm dress code early, book hire or alterations six to eight weeks out, do a full try-on with shoes, and pack a tiny repair kit for the day.

Checklist

- [ ] Same silhouette and colour family as the groomsmen.
- [ ] Let the groom take the distinct waistcoat, tie or boutonnière if that is the plan.
- [ ] Shoes and belt in the same tone across the party.
- [ ] Check pocket squares and cufflinks so nobody invents a solo theme.
- [ ] 6–8 weeks out: book the shop; get measured; order.
- [ ] 2–3 weeks out: try the full outfit with the shoes you will wear.
- [ ] Week of: confirm collection time; press or steam; check buttons.
- [ ] Day after: return hire on time; note damage before you leave the counter.
- [ ] Jacket, trousers, waistcoat, shirt, tie or cravat
- [ ] Shoes cleaned; spare laces if you are unlucky
- [ ] Cufflinks, boutonnière pin, lint roller
- [ ] Fashion tape, safety pins, stain wipe, pain relief
- [ ] Inside pocket clear for rings pouch and cue cards
- [ ] Sit down in the trousers at the fitting. Wedding days involve chairs.
- [ ] Raise your arms as if celebrating. The jacket should not lift like a cape.
- [ ] Check the waistcoat does not gape when you sit.

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