

18 things a grown man should never have

1 A black eye. Unless the rim hits your face mid-dunk, your peepers should remain unblemished. You're smart enough to talk your way out of any fight you're going to lose.

2 A witty e-mail signature. Quotes and song lyrics should be heard during toasts and karaoke performances, respectively. Don't let your electronic correspondence become the digital version of a motivational poster.

3 An empty refrigerator. Your larder should be amply stocked, your pantry provisioned. Always aim to be ready to create an on-the-fly, three-course dinner for her . . . along with breakfast in bed.

4 PlayStation thumb. When they're relaxing, grown men can behave like children. But if you devolve long enough to cause calluses or button-shaped bruises, you're assuredly missing out on life.

5 A key chain with a bottle opener. This bauble is both a gauche reminder of your college days and proof that you don't know how to apply leverage using available, impromptu bottle openers: a lighter, the back end of a fork, this magazine.

6 A lucky shirt. Every shirt is lucky when worn by a man who knows that the harder he works the luckier he'll be.

7 An unstamped passport.

8 Olympic dreams. Exceptions: curling and archery.

9 Less than \$20 in his wallet. Fiduciary nudity is negligence. A real man should always carry a business card and enough dough to pick up coffee, bagels, and the Sunday paper without whipping out the plastic.

10 A name for his penis. Even if it's a really clever name.



11 Any beer that costs less than \$20 a case. And no exception for the grand-slam 30-pack that crosses that price threshold.

12 The need to quote *The Big Lebowski*/*Caddyshack*/*Superbad*. Reciting someone else's lines reminds people that you haven't the wit to write your own.

13 A futon. Sure, beds are for sleeping. But such a meager, slouchy spread has never, in the history of sex, inspired a woman to say, "Take me on your futon."

14 Code words for ugly women. Actually, code words for anything.

15 A Nerf hoop in his living room. Keep the adolescent accoutrements where they belong: in the rec room or above the wastebasket in someone else's office.

16 A secret handshake.

17 Drinking glasses with logos. Especially those kitschy McDonald's Hamburger ones.

18 A recent story with the phrase "So I said to the cop . . ." STEVE CALECHMAN

Read weekly lists guaranteed to make you a better man, at MensHealth.com/mhlist.

Illustration by JASON HOLLEY