# Wedding Planning on a Budget



### A GUIDE FOR THE BUDGET-SAVVY COUPLE



Gone are the days when the bride's parents were solely responsible for the wedding invoices. Today, it is becoming more common for engaged couples to take on the hefty price of saying 'I do'. With the average cost of a wedding in the United Sates now estimated at \$26,645 (costofwedding.com), soon-to-be newlyweds are getting more creative with wedding planning on a budget. This guide offers money-saving tips and planning tricks including what you should do first, major items to budget for, resources, budgeting tools, and more! You don't have to break the bank to have a dream wedding; you just need to get creative and plan responsibly.

### You're Engaged! Now What? =

Congrats! You are engaged. You've got a million things to do but before you dive straight into wedding planning mayhem, here's a high-level outline of what you should tackle first.

- TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
- SET A BUDGET AMOUNT
- FIND OUT WHO'S HELPING AND HOW MUCH
- START YOUR GUEST LIST
- DECIDE IF YOU NEED A WEDDING PLANNER
- CHOOSE A LOCATION/VENUE(S)
- PICK A DATE OR TWO SO YOU HAVE BACKUP
- REGISTER SO YOU CAN RECEIVE GIFTS NOW

### THEN IT'S ALL ABOUT DETAILS, DETAILS!

## Big Items to Budget For

As you're discussing your budget and how much you are willing to spend on the big day, be sure to include the following expenses. These are the items that will likely put the largest dent in your wedding day fund.



ceremony and reception

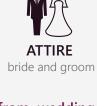




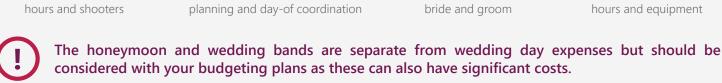












considered with your budgeting plans as these can also have significant costs.

# Forgotten Wedding Costs =

While focused on budgeting for the major wedding expenses (above), many couples forget to save for the not-soobvious costs. Here is a list of some top items you'll want to remember when allocating your wedding finances.



**Engagement party** 



Save the dates

Proposing to bridesmaids





Marriage license

Bachelor/bachelorette parties





Destination wedding travel expenses

Beauty treatments and trials





Hotel and meals for night before/day of



Alterations, undergarments, and accessories



**Unexpected guests** 



Gifts for wedding party and family



**Favors for guests** 



Meals and seating for vendors



Backup plan for outdoor wedding

Lighting and decor beyond flowers

### Weddings are expensive and it can be difficult to stick to a strict budget. The following wedding planning hacks can

= Money-Saving Tips and Tricks

help cut costs so you can stay within budget and still have everything you want on your wedding day.



tend to be less expensive.



table decor, and favors.



**Skip the cake** and serve your favorite



**Shop around** for expensive services

like a photographer, DJ, caterer, or

florist. The more information you have,



Find a rookie. If you're looking for a talented photographer or violinist, find someone who hasn't had a chance to

Making plans before setting a budget can

result in over-spending. Be sure to nail down

your wedding budget before you book any

vendors or purchase any expensive items.

make a name for themselves yet.



save on venue costs.





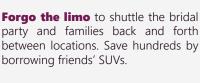
Choose your closest pals and don't

worry about selecting an even number



Wait for sales around big holidays or shop last season's styles to get major savings on items like bridal attire

(dress, shoes, and accessories).



party and families back and forth between locations. Save hundreds by borrowing friends' SUVs.

= Avoid These Mistakes

Planning for your wedding is an exciting time and it's easy to get lost in all that excitement as you're making decisions.

To avoid any unintentional over-spending or additional fees, don't make these wedding planning mistakes.



unnecessary time committments.





Tap into talented friends who may

be an ordained minster, photographer,

or designer. They might offer services

at a discount or in lieu of a gift.



Borrow something from someone you love. Borrowing a veil, jewelry, or cuff links not only saves money but has a greater meaning.



### **BOOKING A VENUE FIRST**

PLANNING BEFORE BUDGETING

Booking a venue is one of the first priorities you should tackle but before you do this,

WAITING TO ORDER ATTIRE When it comes to choosing the bride and grooms attire, make sure you leave plenty of time to spare. Not giving yourself a generous

timeline will result in expensive rush fees.

#### you need to have an idea of how many guests will be attending your wedding.

process. The following resources help you track spending, follow a timeline, and provide plenty of inspiration.

Wedding Planning Resources There are numerous blogs, magazines, social media accounts, and more that can simplify the wedding planning

BUDGETING

**MOBILE APPS** 

weddingwire.com

■ Style Me Pretty

brides.com

rusticweddingchic.com

■ WeddingHappy Wedding Planner

■ theknot.com

Loverly Virtual Wedding Planner ■ Wedding Planner by WeddingWire Wedding Budget Calculator

marthastewartweddings.com

ruffledblog.com

weddingwire.com

onewed.com/blog

**INSPIRATION** 

■ The Knot Wedding Planner

stylemepretty.com weddingchicks.com

theknot.com

■ thebudgetsavvybride.com ■ 100layercake.com/blog marthastewartweddings.com somethingturquoise.com

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