

HER WEDDING SECRETS



*Her
Wedding
Planner.com*



Tips and Secrets of Planning a Successful Wedding

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Congratulations! If you have downloaded this ebook, it means you're planning a wedding. We hope that this ebook will provide some useful tips and suggestions as you plan your special day.

Most women have dreamed of their wedding day since they were little girls. Well now your time has come. If you are feeling a little overwhelmed you're not alone. Planning a wedding is very exciting, but stressful at the same time. We will share wedding planning secrets with you, including where to start and what items can be left until the end. This ebook is filled with money saving tips and wedding facts to hopefully assist you to maintain your wedding budget.

We wish you and your fiance a lifetime of happiness.

Enjoy our ebook!

Yours truly,

The Her Wedding Planner Team





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Wedding Facts

Gone are the days when the bride plans the wedding on her own. Grooms are wanting to become involved more and more these days. Make lists of what you would want your wedding day to be like, and share that list with one another before beginning your planning. This will make everything else much easier.

Some bridal facts,

- 85% of weddings are held in a church or synagogue.
- More than half of all weddings take place in the afternoon.
- August is the most popular month to marry.
- Most couples choose Hawaii as their favorite honeymoon destination.

Did you know?

- 30% of brides plan their weddings for 7 to 12 months.
- An average of 189 guests attend a wedding.
- The average cost of a wedding is \$20,000 to \$25,000.

Note: source for these facts http://pressroom.hallmark.com/wedding_facts.html

To learn more about wedding and bridal facts, purchase a wedding planning book from our on-line book store at www.herweddingplanner.com/books today.



Where to Begin?

After both of you have celebrated your engagement, it is time to share the good news with family and friends. You may decide to throw an engagement party or just visit your close family and friends to let them know the news in person. This is something both of you have to decide. But before you share the news with your family, both of you should decide on a date. If not a date, at least a month or year, because you know the family will ask.

Preparing a budget is another area that should be dealt with before any other planning takes place. It's much easier to plan a wedding when you know how much money you have budgeted. Do keep in mind that it is your wedding, but it's one day and there are lots of ways you can achieve a glamorous wedding without breaking your bank account.

Once your budget has been finalized, you can begin putting together your guest list.

There are a few points to consider when coming up with the number of guests to be invited.

- 1) Type of wedding: Do both of you want a large gathering or a small intimate celebration?*
- 2) Budget: How much money do you really want to spend on your wedding? Would you like a small gathering and have it be an elegant sit-down/black-tie dinner, or invite more people and have it be less elaborate?*
- 3) Location: If you have a certain spot you wish to have your wedding, it may or may not be able to accommodate the number of wedding guests you are considering?*

Fact: For the most part, the guest list usually is comprised of half the bride's side and half the groom's. Within that about 20-25% of invited guests are unable to attend.

Having already decided on a budget, you can determine the type of wedding you can afford to have. Do you want a formal, informal or semi-formal wedding? Different venues support different types of weddings. So keep this in mind when visiting wedding ceremony locations in your area.

There are basically four types of formalities, informal, semi-formal, formal and very formal. A successful wedding is a wedding that is a reflection of you and your fiancé. For example, if the two of you are very laid-down people then having an informal wedding may make more sense than having a very formal one. Your choice in formality will set the stage for the time and location of your ceremony and reception.

- 1) Informal Wedding: Most informal weddings are second marriages and most take place in the afternoons. The dress you would wear is perhaps an ankle length dress. The invitations can be evites or hand written. Most informal weddings are small family gatherings.
- 2) Semi-formal Wedding: The location of your ceremony and reception can be at the same spot. The bridal party is traditionally smaller. Some brides allow the bridesmaids to choose their own dress, having the colour the same. Invitations can be engraved in style.
- 3) Formal Wedding: The most popular style of wedding. They are usually held at a church, but can also be held in a home or beautiful garden. It would include a formal dress attire for the bride and groom, and attendants. There would be a sit-down dinner, music and lots of floral displays.
- 4) Very Formal Wedding: Traditionally held at a church, temple or hotel. The invitations would be engraved with RSVP cards separate. Most of these weddings would have a Wedding Planner. The bridal party may have from 4 to 12 attendants. Everything formal; pictures, flowers for the tables, music for the reception and elegant sit-down dinner.

At HerWeddingPlanner.com you can create your very own free wedding website in our Member's area and manage and maintain your wedding budgets as you begin selecting possible vendors from our directory. You may add your own favourites and assign a budget for that category in one simple step. For more details visit www.herveddingplanner.com

General Wedding Planning Suggestions

- 1) Wedding Planning can become stressful. Try devoting one day a week to be "your wedding planning day". Make all your phone calls and appointments on that day. By doing this your wedding planning doesn't control your social calendar.
- 2) Many couples when they become engaged focus on planning their wedding when together, instead of focusing on each other and their relationship. Don't let your wedding planning take over your time together. Remember to take time to go out for dinner and see a movie. The wedding planning will get done.
- 3) Sit down with your fiancé and decide on a reasonable budget for your wedding, something both of you can live with. The costs of weddings can get out of hand if you allow it. Your wedding is a special day and there are ways you can cut costs and still end up with the wedding of your dreams. The cost of your wedding doesn't have to be a second mortgage!
- 4) Every bride that I know has always wanted their wedding to stand out. Be the wedding of the year! Ask your bridesmaids and close friends for their thoughts. You would be surprised how many people are creative.
- 5) Before handing over any amounts of money for any wedding services, have a contract written. Make sure the contract outlines everything in detail, so that you will not be disappointed. Unsure of something in the contract? ASK!!
- 6) Bridal Shows are a great way to meet all local wedding businesses in one area. Remember to bring your cheque book. Some businesses offer great discounts at these shows. Be prepared so you're not disappointed!

Advantages to attending a Bridal Show

- 1) Bridal Shows are a great place to view new trends in the wedding industry.
- 2) Bridal Shows are a great way to meet with companies that can help you with your wedding planning, all in one location.
- 3) You may be lucky enough to encounter some discounts at Bridal Shows, so go prepared with cheque book or credit card in hand.
- 4) The fashion shows allow you the chance to see what colors are hot in the next season, as well as new trends in dresses.
- 5) Bridal Shows allow you the chance to see samples of the company's work. For example you will be able to see many more floral designs done up for a bridal show, than going to the flower shop and only seeing photos of their work. You can hold the bouquets and ask your questions there.
- 6) Since you can ask questions to all the companies and vendors at the show, this allows you the chance to narrow down your selection and assist you in deciding whom you will choose to do business with.
- 7) You may have to pay admission for some of the shows, but in the long run attending a bridal show will save you lots of money in gas driving to all these places.
- 8) Come prepared with pre-printed labels that include your name, wedding date and phone number. This will make entering contests much easier.

Money-Saving Tip: Don't Plan your wedding close to a Holiday

It is hard to decide on a wedding date. At first glance, there are numerous possibilities, then you remember your sister is due in July, your niece's baptism is in June and all of a sudden it is not so easy.

One piece of advice is try not to plan by a holiday. It may seem like a great idea to you, because your guests will have more travel time and all, but they may not want to spend their vacation at your wedding. Plus, things tend to be more expensive around holiday times.

Flowers tend to be more expensive around Valentine's Day, and blocking off hotel rooms to accommodate your guests may not be permitted around Canada Day or Labor Day. Also, most reception halls are booked a year or more in advance for company Christmas parties and the one you may want may not be available.

Of course it is a decision that you and your fiancé must make, but consider everything before booking a date.

- 7) Choose a friend whom you trust to oversee that everything runs smoothly on your wedding day. Have a cheat sheet made up for them so that they know the schedule for the day in case something were to occur. This will take some stress off you on your special day, so that you can enjoy it.
- 8) Have thank-you cards and cheques prepared for all vendors and businesses that need to be paid on your wedding day. Have your Best Man hold on to these envelopes and distribute them to the appropriate individuals. One less thing for you to worry about!

Check out our blog page at www.herweddingplanner.com. It's filled with current wedding news and trends.

Tips on Choosing a Ceremony and Reception Venue

These two areas go hand in hand. Your selection in ceremony venue will determine the type of reception you will have. A large formal church wedding will probably be followed by a sit-down dinner at a reception hall. An informal outdoor ceremony can be followed by an outdoor reception.

- 1) Ceremony venues can be churches, parks, museums, gardens or homes. Choose the venue that appeals to you and your fiancé the most.
- 2) Ask your ceremony venue representative if they have any decorations that can be used for your wedding. You would be surprised how many brides leave pew bows behind.
- 3) You can cut costs by sharing the cost of flowers or pew decorations with the bride getting married at the same venue on your wedding day.
- 4) Ceremony Programs are not something you need, but a nice personal touch, particularly if your wedding is of a larger size. The guests can take the programs home as a reminder of your special day. A program could include the names of your parents, attendants and how you know each of them. You could include a special poem, maybe something that you wrote each other while dating, or have your wedding vows included.

You may decide to add a thank you to your guests at the end of the program, letting them know how much their friendship and love over the years have meant to the two of you. It can include anything you want. I went to a wedding where all the speeches read at the ceremony were typed out in the programs. It's not really needed but it's your personal decision.



Choosing a ceremony venue should be the first task you do after setting your budget. Once you have booked your ceremony spot the reception hall is the next task to tackle.

You can book your ceremony venue 12 months in advance or more if you live in a larger city or if the venue is a popular one.

There is so much that goes into searching for a reception venue. Does it hold the number of guests you are visiting? Does it give the feel and mood you want to set for my wedding? Is it affordable? Do they give sufficient options for the meal. This area is where you will spend most of your budget, so take to time to search the right venue for you.

- 5) If you are looking to cut costs when it comes to the reception location, why not choose to have it at a hotel. Most hotels have large halls and may be able to accommodate large parties or smaller ones.

- 6) The hotel most likely will throw in the honeymoon suite if you book with them. They may be able to give you a group discount for your guest room rentals as well.

Some hotels may even have decorations such as tulle or chair covers available to rent. So remember to ask!

- 7) It will probably be the largest event that you throw and the most expensive. Wedding receptions account for close to 50% of your wedding budget, that's ALOT!!

After doing some research, here are few areas (and there are many more) where you can make changes that can affect your final bill.

- a) Have a fake cake! Most bakeries charge more for the elaborate designs that tiered cakes present plus the delivery and set-up cost. So why not order a fake cake to display at the reception hall and have a larger slab cake made of the flavour of your choice? This will be easier for the caterer and it will be much less expensive.

b) Limit the alcohol. I know that in some cultures this is not seen as proper. In Italian weddings for example, almost every wedding has an open bar right from cocktail hour to 2:00am. It does add up and if you can limit when the bar is open to your guests it will help to reduce your final tab.

c) Don't get married in the spring or summer. These seasons are the most popular seasons to marry. Choosing an off-season will help cut costs as most vendors may not be so busy and can accommodate more readily. Moreover, Friday weddings, although it may not be a popular day to marry, is said to be less expensive to have your wedding than Saturday weddings.

d) Be careful when making your food selections. Be totally honest with your caterer and ask them what the less expensive meals include and work from there. This way you get something that you can afford. The reception is where the most money is spent when planning your wedding. Everyone wants lots of food and drink, but this is also where if you are not careful, everything may go to waste. For example, just because you and your fiancé enjoy salmon (a pretty expensive dish to serve), it does not mean it's the best dish to serve at your wedding.



e) Throw an afternoon wedding. If you really can't afford an evening reception including a sit down dinner, have a afternoon wedding followed by a "lighter meal" reception or afternoon tea lunch.

8) You may choose to not have any children attend your reception, but if you have decided that you would like children to help celebrate your special day, here are some discussions to help make them feel welcome.

a) Fun Bucket: You can go to the Dollar Store and purchase a bucket, or any other type of container that can be easy to hand out and fill it with crayons and coloring books or activity/learning books. Small toys and puzzles or anything that they can pull out and play with at the table. You would be surprised with what you can find at your local Dollar Store and this shouldn't cost you much.

b) Children's Meals: There are not too many kids out there that want to eat a salmon dish or steak with a spinach salad. So if you are planning on having children at your reception, think of having a children's meal for them. They will love chicken fingers and fries or a simple pasta dish. Plus this will be cheaper for you too!

c) Childcare: Depending on where your wedding is being held, you may or may not be able to do this. Childcare is a great perk for your guests. If you know someone that has babysitting experience you could hire them to be available for your guests if they choose to use the service.

If your reception hall has a smaller room, this room could be perfect for the "childcare area" and serve as a place where parents can get away from the loud music and have a few minutes of down time with the younger kids. This area can be set up with a TV and DVD player and a table with coloring books and crayons. It doesn't have to be much, just a quiet place for the kids. These are just some suggestions of ways that you can make your "younger" guests more comfortable at your wedding. The parents will love you for it!

9) Ask a close friend or family member to be your MC at your wedding reception. A friend rather than a paid professional adds more honour and emotion to your wedding and will make your wedding reception an event that will remain memorable.

10) I know public speaking isn't for everyone, but take the time to thank your guests and family for all their love and support. They will be very thankful for the gesture.



There are many reception venues in our company directory to help you find the perfect place for your wedding.

Check them out at www.heweddingplanner.com

Choosing your Invitations

The general rule is to order your invitations 5 months in advance. Have them addressed and sent out early in order to provide enough time for family and friends to book off your wedding day and make travel plans if necessary.

I know you are very excited that you are getting married and that you may want to invite everyone you know to your wedding. However, you should invite people who are important to you and your fiancé. Those who cause stress or discomfort to you or your family, you may not want to share in one of the most important days of your life.



- 1) Take the time to decide on your invitations. The invitations can set the mood and style of the wedding.
- 2) Different stationary and font styles can add to your wedding theme.
- 3) You can save money by printing your own invitations. There are many on-line sites and stationary stores that have complete wedding invitation kits.
- 4) Hand-write the addresses, it's more personable.
- 5) If you are having an informal wedding, you could get away with sending out an evite. There are lots of different templates and layouts you can use, to make your invitations elegant as an evite.
- 6) Some brides don't care about the picture or image that is on their stamps. Really, how many people stop and look at the stamps on invitations anyways? Then again, you never know. If you are the type of person that would like to have a personalized stamp on your wedding invitation, the following sites are for you. You can select any image you want, even your engagement photo and have it printed on your stamps.

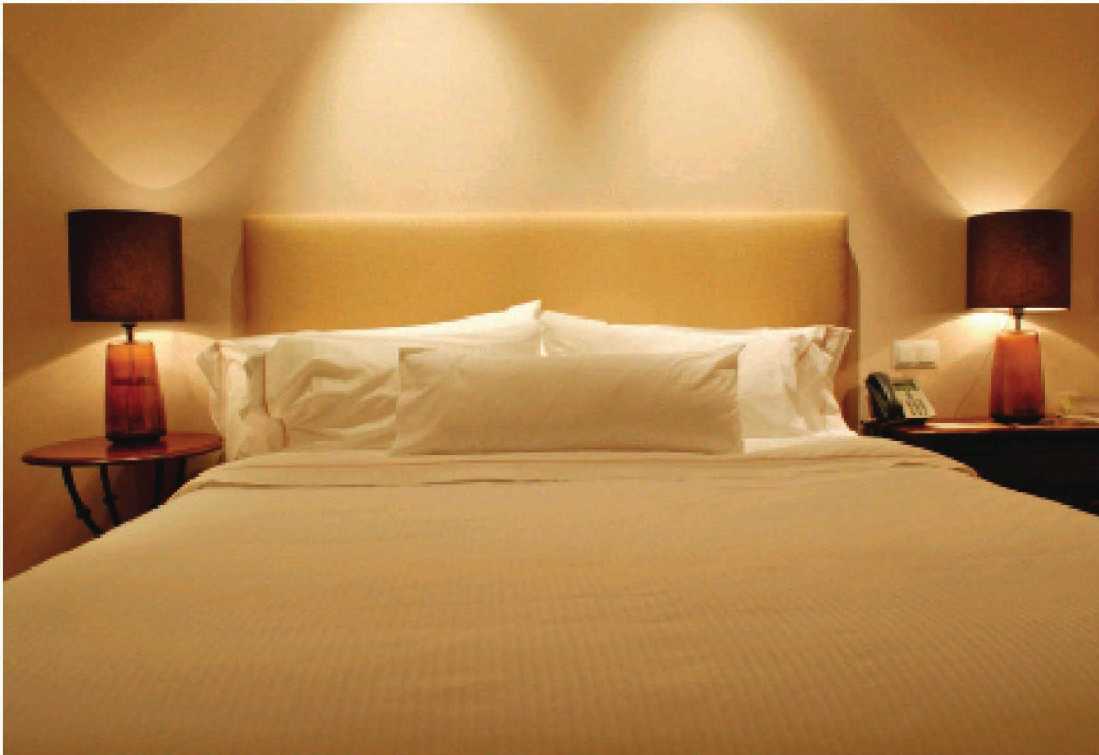
www.canadapost.ca/personal/collecting/default-e.asp?stamp=postage

www.zazzle.com/custom/stamps

Join our Member's area and begin organizing your guest list and responses. An organized bride is a happy bride!

Taking Care of Your Out-of-Town Guests

Your guests have taken time to come to witness your special day. It's a very nice gesture to prepare some things for your guests to let them know how much you appreciate them.



- 1) Provide hotel accommodation information. You may have out-of-town guests, some who have never visited your city. Providing a list of local hotels that are near your wedding ceremony and reception area in the invitation will be much appreciated.
- 2) You can visit your city's tourism centre and pick up some brochures of sites to see while in the city. This gives your guests a chance, if they have it, to take in some local city attractions while attending your wedding. These brochures can be given to the hotel assistant to hand out to your guests upon arrival.
- 3) Create an agenda of the wedding activities on your wedding day. Provide your guests with a map on how to get to the ceremony and reception. Let them know what will be occurring before and after these events also let them know who is requested to attend, for example: family wedding pictures being taken at Summer Hill on Queen's University campus (aunts, uncles, parents, cousins, grandparents only please).

With our free personal wedding websites at www.herweddingplanner.com, create an itinerary with maps for your guests. We have an elegant assortment of templates to choose from, so start creating today!

Tips on Choosing Wedding Attire

Shopping for your wedding dress is by far the most exciting task of wedding planning. I had so much fun shopping for my dress. It can be a little overwhelming, so have a small group of ladies whose opinion you trust go shopping with you. Depending on the type of wedding you are having, there are certain dresses that suit certain themes. Keep this in mind when shopping, remember to try all types of dresses, what looks "different" on the rack may look fabulous on you.



1) Bridal trunk shows are a must for brides to attend in my book. Ask your local bridal shops if they will be hosting any upcoming Trunk Shows. It gives the bride a chance to see the newest dresses of the season for a particular designer, before the dresses hit the bridal shops.

2) When deciding on your headpiece, consider your haircut and/or the way you would like your hair styled. As well, consider the dress and jewellery you will be wearing. You want the headpiece to compliment your dress and accessories, not take away from it.

3) Purchasing a veil is quite important, as the veil should accompany your dress and not overpower it. The following are some of the more popular types of veils that may be discussed with you. Remember when the time comes to purchase your veil, that you should take into account your dress type and headpiece to ensure you are happy with the end result.

a) Blusher Veil

This is the short veil worn over the bride's face. The blusher veil tends to measure between 24 to 26 inches from the top of the headpiece to the hem of the veil. Traditionally the groom would lift the blusher veil to kiss the bride at the end of the ceremony. However, nowadays fathers choose to lift the blusher veil to kiss their daughters as she reaches the alter.

b) Elbow-Length Veil

This veil extends down to the elbow. It can be single or multi-layered.

c) Fingertip Veil

The fingertip veil is the most commonly worn style, because it is the most flattering to any bride and gown. The veil extends to the bride's fingertips and can be worn through the ceremony and reception

d) Ballet Length Veil

The ballet length veil extends down, but never touches the ground. It is flattering for women wearing a gown without a train.

e) Chapel Length Veil

The chapel length veil is best worn with a gown that has a chapel length train. This veil extends 6 to 12 inches beyond the train of the gown.

f) Semi-Cathedral Veil

Best worn with veils that have a cathedral length train, this veil extends about 6 to 12 inches beyond the end of the train of the gown.

g) Cathedral Veil

It extends 6 to 12 inches beyond the end of the train of the cathedral type gown.

4) Try going to the Bridal shops on a weekday, not weekend. Bridal shows are so overwhelmed on weekends that you may not get all your questions answered.

5) Ask the Bridal Shows if they will be hosting any trunk shows on any designers that interest you. Trunk shows are great ways to see the upcoming season's designs and try the dresses on before they reach the shops.

6) Go to Bridal shows in small groups. Just take your mom, sister and/or Maid of Honour. A large group does nothing more than overwhelm you and makes it difficult for the sales associate to focus on your choices.

7) Wear a wedding dress that has been in the family. It is a beautiful family tradition to pass down a wedding dress. Some mothers hold on to their wedding dress in hopes to have a daughter that will one day wear it. So have a look at your mother's or grandmother's dress and you could be pleasantly surprised. If you are not interested in wearing the dress, maybe the headpiece could be the "something old and borrowed" you carry with you on your wedding day.

8) When choosing a wedding gown you have to consider the type of wedding you are having;

- a) Royal Train (also called a Monarch train): Generally falls 9 ft from the waist line and is only used for the most formal wedding.
- b) Cathedral Length Train: This is a popular choice for that fairy tale look. A cathedral train is normally 2 1/2 yards or 7 1/2 feet from the waistline. These gowns often come with a bustling option or a removable train to allow for better movement.
- c) Semi-Cathedral Length Train: A semi-cathedral is about half way between a chapel and cathedral length. Perfect for a semi-formal or a formal wedding.
- d) Chapel Length Train: This is currently the most common train. A chapel train is normally 1 1/3 yards or 4 feet from the waistline. This is perfect for a semi-formal wedding gown.
- e) Floor Train: This type of gown is perfect for an informal or garden/outdoors wedding. It's a gown that has no train. The dress itself just sweeps the floor. The sweeping train is the shortest of the trains and is also called a brush train because it just brushes the floor. Usually, the back hem is only a few inches lower than the front hem. It is perfect for an elegant informal or semi-formal wedding gown.

In most weddings the groom, ushers and fathers usually rent their formal wear. You should start looking for the groom's outfit about 4-6 months before the wedding. There are different types of tuxedos and suits out there, so take your time and shop at a few different stores.



- 1) Consider having the fathers in the same type of outfit as the groom and ushers as in pictures this will look better.
- 2) If you are having a semi-formal wedding, your groom and attendants can wear suits and ties, which may cut the cost. It still looks sharp!
- 3) If you are having a ring bearer, have them dress in the same manner as the groom, making the wedding look more united.

Our Events Calendars and Blog at www.herweddingplanner.com will keep you up to date on upcoming bridal and trunk shows.

Tips on Florists/Decorations

Flowers and decorations embellish a wedding. Large floral pieces can make a dramatic and bold statement. Work with your florist to achieve the mood and theme you want with the flowers you choose. There are so many things that can be done with flowers, it's quite exciting!

Decorations help to further achieve the mood you want your wedding to hold. Decorations can include backdrops for behind the head table, candles, candles holders, centrepieces, chair covers, table linen, just to name a few. Before you start renting items speak to your reception venue to see if there is anything they have that you can use.



1) A great tip that could save you some money on your wedding day is to share the ceremony floral cost with other brides getting married at your location immediately before or after your ceremony.

2) If you are the last bride getting married that day, you may suggest paying a little more for the floral arrangements and then have them brought to the reception location as extra decorations.

3) Remember to ask the church, or chosen ceremony photo location if they have floral holders that can be borrowed. When I got married my church had a wide variety of floral holders which couples could borrow, and I don't think they would have told me about it had I not asked.

4) Don't underestimate greenery, it goes a long way. Using garlands of ivy can fill large areas very quickly and be very dramatic.

5) Centrepieces can have lots of greenery with hints of flowers from your bouquet and still be quite beautiful.

6) Ask the reception hall manager if they have decorations that can be rented or better yet thrown in the rental cost of the hall. Some places have decorations left from previous weddings and can offer you the use of them for free.

7) Florists are very creative these days. Don't be afraid to ask how to incorporate a flower if the colour doesn't quite match your wedding colours. You would be surprised how many flowers can be dyed or coloured.

8) Ask friends or family who recently got married if they have any decorations that you can borrow from them.

9) A good florist will suggest how the arrangements you have chosen can be used for your ceremony and reception. It's great if you can get all day use from the arrangements.

10) Protect yourself by putting payments on your credit card, in case there is a breach of contract.

11) Candles, candles and lots more candles! Candles are inexpensive and a easy way to incorporate romance to any room.

Money saving florist tip

1) Choose flowers that are in season.

2) Choose smaller bouquets. Small can be very dramatic and beautiful.

Check out our directory for Florists and Party Rental Stores in your area.

Tips on Photographers/Videographers

Photos and video are a way to treasure your wedding forever. For the first 5 years of my marriage I played my wedding video on our anniversary. You are so busy and overwhelmed on your wedding day, that you miss moments. By having a video you can see all the moments you missed.



A wedding album is a beautiful wedding keepsake. These pictures you will pull out again and again to reminisce over the day, and to show children and grandchildren in years to come.

- 1) Ask for referrals from friends and family, and don't be shy to ask to see their photos. This way you can see how well they capture every moment of the wedding day.
- 2) Remember that you have to feel comfortable with your choice of a photographer and videographer. They will be with you all day.
- 3) Compile a list of pictures you would like taken and have this included in your contract if needed. This way you will not be disappointed with the end product.
- 4) You don't to have hire professionals to take pictures or video. It can be a friend or family member, however, if you do this remember not to be upset if a moment was missed.

Our directory is filled with an assortment of Photographers and Videographers all with their own style and creativity.

Choosing Your Transportation

Transportation should not be overlooked. It may be a small aspect in the whole wedding planning process, however you do want everyone - most importantly the groom - arriving at the church on time! You need to be organized in order to complete this task correctly. You need to know how many people need transportation, where they need to be picked up and where they need to go. Your budget will determine what you can afford and/or how many people will be transported using that means of transportation. There are many ideas when it comes to transportation. Some of these may be ideal for your wedding theme; an antique car, limo, horse-drawn carriage, horse-drawn sleigh, boat or gondola.



- 1) When you reserve your means of transportation, remember to give exact pick-up time, address of pick-up and drop-off and the estimated length you will need the service.
- 2) Remember to get everything written in the contract, including the deposit.
- 3) Do have someone follow up with the company a month before the wedding to make sure everything has been looked after.

Remember to check out our directory for a list of various transportation companies.

Pre-Wedding Parties and Wedding Traditions



1) The tradition of something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue.

"Something Old" symbolizes a link to the bride's family and their past. Usually the item is a family heirloom, that the bride will wear or carry on her wedding day. Items such as a pearl necklace, a handkerchief or diamond earrings.

"Something New" symbolizes good fortune and success and that she will have a wonderful new life with her husband. Usually the bride will choose her wedding gown as her new item.

"Something Borrowed" symbolizes the love and support of family and friends. A borrowed object can be a item from a close friend, such as a lace handkerchief or a pin.

"Something Blue" symbolizes faithfulness and loyalty. Most brides will choose a blue garter or ribbon. More often you may see brides placing a little bit of blue flowers in her bouquet which she carries on her wedding day.

This old tradition doesn't have to be an expensive part of your wedding. For the most part, these items are handed down or borrowed for the day. It can be a very touching moment for the woman that meant a lot in your life.

2) To let your girls know how important they are to you, treat them to a night out or a day at the spa before your wedding. It's a thoughtful gesture and a great stress reliever.

3) Discuss with your bridal party the type of bridal shower you wish to have. I say this because usually it is a member of your bridal party that will throw you your shower. There are many types of bridal shower themes out there these days so decide which will be more useful to you when married.

Unique Showers:

Memories Shower - Each guest brings a memento to represent a special or funny experience shared with the bride. This gives guests a chance to share childhood stories with one another.

Stock the Bar Shower - A great idea if the bride and groom frequently host parties. Guests can bring bottles of wine or liquor.

Wine Tasting Shower - Organize a wine tasting event in honor of the bride. This can be held at a winery or local cafe. Guests could bring wine and bar related gifts.

Christmas Shower - This is perfect for winter weddings. Guests can bring a Christmas tree ornament or other Christmas related gifts.

Garden Shower - Hold the event in a garden setting and have the guests bring gardening related gifts.

Health and Fitness Shower - Reserve the rock-climbing wall at a local sport center or take this co-ed shower to a park or beach. Another option is to organize a golf, tennis or volleyball tournament.

Trendy Showers:

Jack and Jill Wedding Showers - This shower is for the bride and groom and all their friends. Usually a casual affair held in the afternoon including barbecue or in the evenings as a cocktail party. The theme for gifts at this type of shower could vary from tools to bottles of wine for him and small appliances to linens for her.

Spa Bridal Shower - The bride and party guests spend a day at the spa. Most spas will accommodate such a party. If the cost is too expensive, you can take a look at having an at-home spa party.....it's just as fun!

Round the Clock Shower - Each guest is assigned a time of day, such as 7 AM, 12 Noon, 10 PM. Their gift reflects what one would be doing at that time of the day. Perhaps the guest assigned 8 AM gives a coffee maker, the 7 PM guest could give pots & pans.

Room of the House Shower - Each guest is assigned a room of the house and chooses a gift that is appropriate for that room. For the bedroom, as an example, a guest could give a set of sheets

Lingerie Shower - Guests give the bride gifts of lingerie, often very sexy lingerie. In addition to the living room, lingerie showers can be held in a banquet or favourite bar/restaurant.

4) Registering for bridal gifts can also be useful for guests. Make sure that you make it as easy as possible for your out of town guests to purchase something off your registry. Ask the store assistant how you can achieve this as they have many options.

Log onto our blog page at www.herweddingplanner.com for ideas on how to make your wedding unique and priceless.

Thank You Gifts and Wedding Gifts

Bombonnières are wrapped up gifts that are given to your guests at your wedding. By passing bombonnières to their wedding guests, the Happy Couple feels that they are also passing their good luck unto their guests. Traditionally, these lucky gifts consisted of five almonds or pieces of candy which represented fertility, health, wealth, happiness and longevity.

1) If your thank-you gifts/bombonnières are something that can be arranged as a group, why not arrange them as a centerpiece. At the end of the evening, your guests can take one as they leave the reception. By doing this, you've cut your wedding expenses by not having to purchase a separate centerpiece.

2) When I got married seven years ago my husband and I gave out beautifully wrapped frosted shot glasses as our wedding favours. At the time it was one of the most popular favours to give away. These days more and more couples are giving out edible favours.

I've found some really neat ideas for edible gift giving;

1) Coffee and Tea: You could have a mug with samples of different coffees or teas. This gift will definitely be worth your money.

2) Personalized Mini Wedding Cakes: These are BEAUTIFUL! You could have mini cakes that resemble your wedding cake, wrapped up and given as favours to your guests.

3) Chocolate: You could have chocolate truffles or chocolate bars made with personalized outer labels.

4) Candy or Mints: You can purchase boxed candy or mints.

5) Jam/Jellies: If you or a family member are great in the kitchen and make great jams why not package them for your guests. It's a great way to save some money.

6) Wine: Being from an Italian family, all my uncles made wine. When I got married my father and father-in-law both made wine which was at every table for guests to enjoy. If you are a wine maker, you could have your wine bottled. Attach a personalized label and this now has become a great favor.

7) Biscotti/Cookies: Again if you are great in the kitchen....show it off. Why not make your grandmother's special family secret recipe for almond biscotti and package 2 or 3 in a nice box. It is the personal touch that will make this your own unique one-of-a-kind wedding favour.



I hope this has opened your mind to the wide range of party favors out there.

It's a great idea to register for wedding gifts. In many different nationalities families start a hope chest filled with linens, sheets, family silver and other such pieces.

It may be difficult for your guests to decide what to purchase as a wedding gift.

1) Ask the store in which you are registering if they have an on-line gift registry site where your guests can purchase the item on-line in the convenience of their own home.

2) Register at one or two stores. There's no need to be registering for 3 items at 5 stores. Make it easy on your guests.

*Our Connect with Brides Area allows you to meet other brides and discuss your wedding planning.
Our Member's Area allows you to maintain a list of gift registries.*

Tips on Planning Your Honeymoon



- 1) Apply for your passports early to avoid delays.
- 2) Make lists of things to pack and important phone numbers in case you need them while away.
- 3) Begin planning early. Advance planning gives your travel agent time to put the perfect package together and maybe save you some money in the process.
- 4) Discuss where you would like to go. Your perfect destination may not be the same as your partner's.
- 5) Not the time to be a penny pincher! If you guys are planning a family in the near future, this may be the last trip for a while. **MAKE IT COUNT!!!**

6) Purchase the travel insurance, as you never know when it will come in handy.

7) Ask friends and family for their recommendations and some travel guidebooks they used for planning. 8)

Confirm all your honeymoon arrangements a couple of weeks in advance.

9) Purchase traveller's cheques and perhaps some currency in advance, so you are prepared in case of an emergency.

10) In case the airline misplaces your luggage upon arrival to your destination, pack some toiletries and underwear in your carry-on luggage. You never know!!

Book your Honeymoon with one of our Travel Agencies and you will not be disappointed.

Closing Remarks



We would like to thank you for reading our ebook and hope you found it useful and informative.

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding, may it be all you dreamed it would be and more. HerWeddingPlanner.com has all the tools you need to begin planning your special day, so log on today and see your wedding dreams become a reality. We have many services that will help you along your way including a free Member's Area, Connect with Brides Network, Wedding Shop, On-Line Bookstore, Blog, Events Calendar, Youtube Video Channel and the list goes on.

Plan your wedding with HerWeddingPlanner.com and you will be able to achieve the most successful wedding ever.

After the wedding has past and you are settled into married life, don't forget about us. We may come in handy to you when you decide to purchase your new home (www.homecentregroup.com) and begin your beautiful family (www.babykidsandfamily.com).

Again, congratulations from all of us at HerWeddingPlanner.com, and if you need any assistance, we are only but a click away!

Sincerely,

HerWeddingPlanner.com Team

We invite your feedback and suggestions for future editions. Email us at: info@herweddingplanner.com

