

This Document will help you during the wedding process! These hacks can save you time and money by avoiding common wedding planning mistakes. These wedding tips also help with giving you a different perspective to your wedding.

1. Guests Come First

Always get an approximate number of guests you'll invite before you decide on a venue. You don't want to make the mistake of putting a deposit on a venue then realize its not big enough for all your guest.

2. Prioritize Your Vendors And Cash

The way to a good wedding budget is "balance". Begin by making a list of the most important details you want for your wedding, like your wedding dress, music, cake, flowers ect. Then assign a number to each, one being the most important and three being the least. Invest more money in all your number ones and two's and cut corners on your number threes. Make sure everything isn't in one category! For example, if a designer gown and exquisite food are what really matter to you, you may have to choose simple decore and smaller floral arrangements.

3. Referrals, Referrals, Referrals

Let one vendor lead you to another. Your wedding photographer can tell you which caterer makes great food. The venue manager can tell you which DJ packs the dance floor. Your vendors are your wedding experts. They are there to help you with any planing or questions you may have.

4. Keep Organized

Be sure to keep all your wedding related things in one place. Contracts with vendors, notes you take during meetings, and photos or sheets from magazines you want vendors to see (showing vendors samples of what you want helps them envision your wedding). Having an email address dedicated to your wedding help keep all wedding related emails together.

5. Get a Day of Coordinator

If you don't have a wedding planner, consider hiring a day-of coordinator. Not only will she/he guide you through the day, but they will be the liaison between you and everyone else involved in the wedding. Dealing with one person alleviates a ton stress on the big day. You should be a guest at your wedding, not the staff.

6. Prioritize Your Guest

List your guest in 3 different groups. Start with immediate family, the bridal party and best friends on top of the list (group 1); Next on the list should be aunts, uncles, cousins and close friends you can't imagine celebrating without (group 2). At the bottom of your list should be, neighbors, coworkers and so on (Group 3). If you need to make some cuts, start from group 3 until you reach your ideal number.

7. Re-confirm Any Changes Months Prior to Wedding.

Most venues and vendors stay extremely busy during the wedding season so it's never a bad idea to confirm any changes made after the initial meeting. Sending a simple email like "Hello, just confirming that the venue will remain open until 2 a.m. versus midnight." Doing this will give you peace of mind the day of your wedding knowing that everything is set.

8. Outdoor Weddings

There are many details that are forgotten for outdoor weddings. Guests have been known to leave early from improperly heated or vented outdoor venues. Mosquitos also swarm in certain areas be sure to bring repellent. A great gift bag item is to include bug repellent. If you want a sunset ceremony, make sure you know when to say your vows by checking SunriseSunset.com. Always have a Plan B for unexpected weather.

9. Check Your Credit

Sign up for a credit card with a great rewards program to take advantage of the high cost of weddings. Whether you get airline miles or great shopping deals, gathering all wedding-related purchases to this card will help you accumulate thousands of rewards points (which could be used for your honeymoon).

10. Lessen Your Cost

What's the easiest way to save money on your wedding? Cut your guest list or provide your own catering. Remember catering is expensive and will be a large portion of your wedding expenses. If it's costing you \$50 per person, eliminating one table of 10 can save you \$500. If you have a friend who is talented in the kitchen asking them to cook for your wedding can save you thousands of dollars.

11. Tend to Your Bar

Typically, you need one bartender per 50 guests to keep them happy and the line at a minimum. If you plan on serving signature cocktails that can't be pre mixed, we recommend having an extra bartender designated to this task.

12. Surprise expenses

Save about 5 to 10 percent of your budget for surprise expenses like printing extra invites because of mistakes, umbrellas for a rainy day and ribbons for the wedding programs, and any additional tailoring needs. You never know when you'll need to get last minute supplies for unexpected details.

13. Set a Budget

Setting a budget is crucial when planning a wedding. Using a budget sheet will also help you stay organized and not over spend. Vendors will always provide their very best even for their basic options. Asking for a vendors most basic package will often save you hundreds of dollars and could help you stay within your budget.

14. Take It One Step at a Time

Its common mistake to rush planning for a wedding. Taking on too much at one time won't let you focus on important details, which could cause issues later in the planning process. Make a list of vendors you need in order. Don't book a venue until you've made a estimate on guest; Never hire any vendors before you've confirmed your date with the venue; design your cake after you've envisioned your flowers and decore, etc.

15. Schedule the Setup

Make sure you allow plenty of time for set up. Setting up for a wedding takes longer then you think! Appointing family members or friends to manage set up will save you money. Getting outside help is ideal for large weddings. See if the venue will allow you to decorate the day before. If not, always ask what the earliest you are allowed to decorate.

16. Marriage Licenses

Check your state's license requirements online. Give a copy of the marriage license to your mom or your maid of honor (just in case you lose it during the final days before your wedding).

17. Rules and Restrictions

Be sure to ask the manager of the venue or house of worship if there are any restrictions. For example, what is allowed and not allowed when decorating. What are rules for decorating in a place of worship? Or if you have your wedding outdoors, are you allowed to place extra tents with stakes in the lawn (which is sometimes not allowed)?

18. Take Second Opinions

Don't plan by yourself! Don't dress shop on your own, all the gowns will look the same after hours of looking and it might be harder to decide on the perfect gown. Getting another perspective from a close friend or family member can help give you ideas and make your wedding planning easy.

19. Keep A To-Do/Notes Page On Your Phone Somewhere

You WILL get random ideas or thoughts through out your daily routines of things to do for your wedding. Maybe an idea for decore or maybe a phone call to a vendor you keep forgetting to make. Being able to save those thoughts and ideas on your phone will save you countless headaches of trying to remember what you thought of days ago.

20. Keep Your Schedule Clear

It's tempting to plan a big brunch or line up manicures, pedicures, and have other appointments on the morning of the wedding, but try not to do too much. (Stick to the absolute necessities—hair and makeup.) Your wedding day will fly by faster than you could ever imagine. If you have too many activities, you won't have space to take in the real once-in-a-lifetime moments.

21. Talk To Married Couples

Nobody can give you better advice then couples who have already had their wedding! They can give their personal experiences and give you a better idea of what to expect on your wedding day.