

# HRphotoimages Wedding Planner

## Planning Your Wedding Day

- **SELECT A DATE!**

If you select a date in the holiday season it is a good idea to let your proposed guests know it! Send a 'save the date' card.

- **DETERMINE YOUR BUDGET**

Prioritise and highlight those things that are important to both of you and put them to the top of the list.

- **BOOK THE CHURCH/REGISTRAR**

- **SELECT BRIDESMAIDS , BEST MAN AND USHERS**

- **BOOK THE RECEPTION VENUE**

- **BOOK THE CATERER** (make sure to sample the menu!).

- **HIRE THE FLORIST**

Communicate with the florist on colours, flowers, bouquets, button holes and arrangements for the tables and church.

- **ORDER THE BRIDAL GOWN, BRIDESMAIDS DRESSES.**

Allow plenty of time for fittings and final adjustments.

- **BUY THE RINGS**

- **HIRE SUITS FOR GROOM, BEST MAN, USHERS**

Organise appointments for fittings.

- **ORDER WEDDING STATIONERY**

Choose your design and order co-ordinating invitations, RSVPs, Thank You's, Order of Service and Menu cards for the tables.

- **BOOK HONEYMOON** (ensure your passports are up to date!).

- **BOOK TRANSPORT FOR THE BRIDE, BRIDESMAIDS ETC**

- **ACCOMMODATION FOR GUESTS OVERNIGHT STAYS**

Reserve rooms for those guests who require them. Most Hotels will give a group discount.

## **APPROXIMATELY 8 WEEKS BEFORE**

- **FINALISE GUEST LIST**  
Bear in mind that on average you will have 25% unable to attend.
- **FINALISE MENU**  
Meet with caterer/Hotel and finalise menu and table decorations, name cards etc.
- **ENTERTAINMENT**  
Decide on type of music and research bands, DJs etc. Some bands will give you a demo CD to ensure you like what you hear.
- **MEET WITH REGISTRAR/VICAR**  
Discuss any special readings for the ceremony and once you have decided send a copy to those who will be responsible for reading them.
- **ORGANISE WEDDING LIST**  
Many large department stores will help with this.
- **WEDDING PARTY GIFTS**  
Buy Thank You Gifts for the bridesmaids, Mum's, Ushers, Best Man.
- **MAIL INVITATIONS WITH DATE FOR RSVPs**
- **ARRANGE TRIAL RUN WITH MAKEUP ARTIST AND HAIRDRESSER**  
A bride needs to be comfortable for the whole day and into the evening and confident that her makeup will be resilient and hair remains in place throughout. If a veil is being worn then the hairdresser will need to do a trial run with it (bear in mind if hair is washed on the morning of the wedding it will be soft and silky and the veil and head dress needs to stay in place for several hours.
- **FINALISE SEATING PLANS** (involve both sets of parents in this as they can help where there are family rifts!).

## Creating Your Wedding Budget

As if getting engaged wasn't complicated enough, then the conversation turns to planning the wedding. In order to start off on the right note, you want to be sure that you are clear about how much money will be involved.

It's a sticky subject

There's no doubt that talking about money is difficult for some, but factor in an emotional event and that's a great way to keep everyone quiet. What do you do?

Traditionally, the bride's family will pay for the wedding, but times have changed, so you're going to need to negotiate a little bit more. You may hold true to tradition, but have the groom's family chip in on additional costs at the reception or rehearsal dinner. Each situation is different.

Where it can become sticky is when one family is not as well off as the other. You don't want the one family to have to shoulder the entire burden, but at the same time, you also don't want to leave the other side out.

Many older couples are even paying for their own weddings in order to settle this discussion altogether. You could take out a loan as a couple as well in order to defray any wedding costs.

But it's best to not have to go into debt at the start of a marriage.

Bringing up bucks

In order to get every family on the same page, it's best to set up a meeting for everyone to talk at. This meeting will include the couple and anyone that wants to chip into the overall budget.

At this meeting, you will want to already have a list of all of the things that will need to be paid for food, dress, reception, etc. It may even be helpful to put each of the budget items on index cards and pass them out to whomever volunteers. You will also want to keep a separate list so that you know who to ask for money.

Money doesn't have to be a divisive thing at the time of your wedding. Give everyone a chance to chip in and you'll have a happy family as well as enough money for everything that you want to do.

There's no point in being dishonest about how much money you think you will need. Actually, it may be better to give yourself a little more than you think you'll need to cover any unintended expenses.

## **Your Wedding Budget**

Want to make sure your marriage doesn't end up on the rocks before you get to the chapel? Then set a realistic wedding budget -- and stick to it.

In the process of planning a wedding, budget concerns often are a source of disagreement for a couple. They may have different ideas about what kind of wedding they want, and about what they can afford. To make the wedding a truly happy occasion, it is important that the couple discusses financial constraints early.

### **Set A Budget And Save For It**

The first tip is to discuss finances before the wedding plans begin. Everyone involved in the decision-making process needs to understand exactly how much money is available for the wedding.

To maximize that budget, you should start saving early for your wedding. Advance planning and saving will allow you to maintain or even exceed your budget, comfortably. And that will make wedding planning easier and more fun.

### **Get Everyone On-Board**

Once your wedding budget has been established, set it aside for a few days and then review it again. This gives everyone a chance to let the information sink in. The budget review after this waiting period gives the participants a chance to verify that they understand and agree to the budget. This is vitally important, because someone who does not agree with the budget may overspend in 1 area, leaving the rest of the budget in jeopardy.

### **Budget Line Items**

When you've decided exactly how much money is available for your wedding, the next step is to divide the total into budget categories, such as the venue, food and drink, bride's attire, groom's attire, transportation, entertainment, photography, favors, centerpieces, and gifts. It is also advisable to set aside money for unforeseen expenses.

### **Who Pays**

Part of establishing a budget is to be clear on who will pay for what.

### **Shopping And Negotiating**

You will need to negotiate contracts for services, and so you must know the budget for each area of the wedding. If you have allotted £250 for entertainment, look for a DJ whose rate is approximately that amount, then negotiate to ensure that you remain under budget.

It's wise to shop around and compare prices for services. A company may come highly recommended, but if they are outside your price range, let them know why you are going to have to choose another company. You may be surprised at how willing they will be to give you a better offer.

### **Substitute Creativity For Cash**

Doing things on your own is another way to stay under budget. Homemade invitations or making your own favors or centerpieces can greatly reduce the wedding cost, freeing up funds for other areas of the wedding.

Do not fall into the trap of viewing your budget as restrictive. Instead of thinking about what you can't afford, focus on how you can make your wedding and reception truly unique. You will be inspired to create a wonderful, memorable wedding regardless of your budget constraints.

### **Anticipate The Unforeseen**

Realise that there are bound to be snags along the way. If you go over budget in 1 area, you will need to cut the budget in another area. As long as you stay aware of your spending and realize the ramifications of all your actions, you can roll with the punches and alter your plans to accommodate any needed changes.

### **Make It A Wonderful Memory**

A wedding budget can cause emotional strain on a couple and their relationship. It is important for them to discuss their finances and establish a clear budget for their wedding plans. Doing this early in the wedding planning process can help the couple to avoid conflict during the planning phase of the wedding. It can also make the wedding more fun for everyone, and start out the marriage on a positive note.

After all, working together is what a marriage is all about.