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Introduction

A wedding is probably going to be the biggest event that you will ever plan in your lifetime. When you are making such a commitment to the person that you love and plan to spend the rest of your life with, you will want everything to go just perfectly.

Weddings are always a welcome addition to everyone's circle and they can be a great source of joy to all people involved.

Nothing can be as fulfilling and as overwhelming than planning the wedding of your dreams. Most people assume that the most difficult part of having a wedding is getting the groom to propose.

But what happens after that has been accomplished? What happens is the wedding has to be planned right down to last flower and place setting.

It really doesn't matter what type of wedding that you are planning to have or how many guests that you are planning to invite. You can plan a beautiful wedding that can suit any and every budget.

These days, most couples would prefer to spend the majority of their money on a great honeymoon, but still they want to have a memorable wedding. This will be your comprehensive guide to having the best and nicest wedding on a budget.

Just because you don't have the money to be able to afford the fanciest of everything, you can still host the wedding of your dreams. People throw weddings on a budget every day, and with this book handy, you will be able to do it too.

Why should something small like money put a stop to your dream wedding when it doesn't have to? These days, just about every wedding that you will see (unless the couple is rich) is going to be held on a budget.

Some weddings are even held on a budget as little as \$1000. Just because you can't afford to pay thousands and thousands of dollars

Shoestring Wedding

for a wedding doesn't mean that you can't throw a wedding to be admired by others.

With this guide to having a nice wedding on a budget, you will learn how to:

- Get deals on flowers
- Get deals on catering
- Get cheap decorating tips
- Tips for hiring a DJ or music
- Save money on bridesmaid gifts
- Save money on photography

There are so many aspects to throwing a wedding that it can cost you an arm and a leg. Nobody wants to spend every dime that they have on their wedding, yet they still want the best wedding that they can possibly get.

With this guide on hand, that is exactly what you will get and at rock bottom prices too! This guide will be your comprehensive guide to saving money on all of the costs for your wedding. We will explore themes and extras and how you can save money on all of them.

Creating your Budget

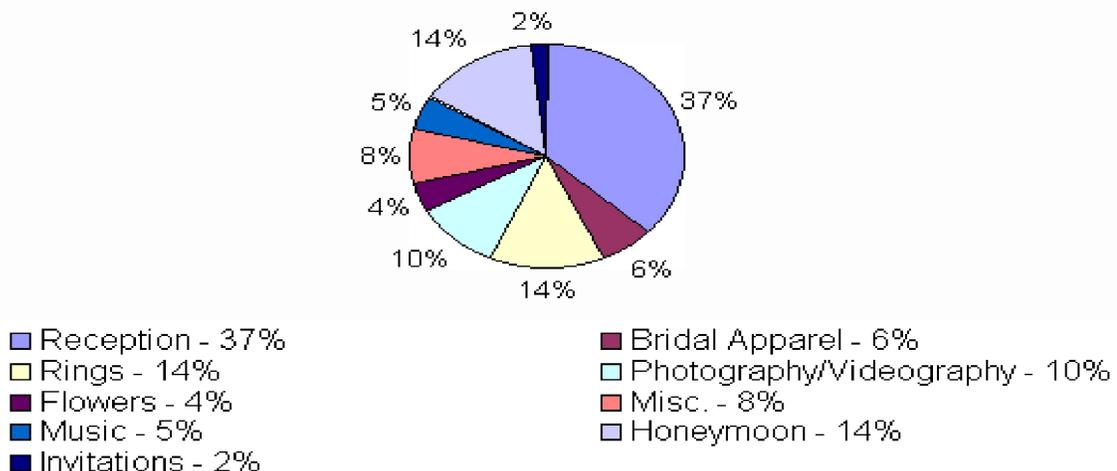
Perhaps the most important thing that must be done when you are ready to begin planning your wedding is to first create your budget. Your budget is important because it is almost impossible to know what you can afford for each aspect of the wedding if you don't give yourself a limit to the overall spending costs. For most people, creating the budget is the hardest job to do because you want to have the nicest and most memorable wedding that you can afford.

The days when the wedding is paid for by the parents of the bride are practically gone now. Parents will often contribute to the wedding cost as a gift to the couple, but it is rather rare for parents to cover the whole cost of the wedding these days.

Usually it is because the parents simply can't afford it, but couples today often prefer to pay for their own weddings because it ensures that they can do it the way that they want to without interference.

A lot of the time, parents will forego paying for the wedding and pay for the honeymoon instead. Basically this makes creating your own budget very important; especially if you are paying for both the wedding and the honeymoon yourself.

These days, 4 out of 5 couples pay for their own wedding and it helps to know how your budget should be broken down. The chart below should help.



Shoestring Wedding

Special Note: This chart is a general breakdown of the costs and how much of your budget should be applied to what. This chart was produced by www.BrideSave.com if you would like to see more information.

As with the above chart, when creating your actual budget, you should use the chart information as a guided starting point. From this chart, you will next have to create your actual dollar budgeted amount.

When creating your budget, you will first begin with the overall amount that you can afford to spend. The average wedding today costs approximately \$19,000. This is not a definite, but this is what the figures currently show.

Now you will need to take that starting amount and apply it to an actual separate dollar amount. If you are not good at percentages, you can always utilize the internet and check with the various websites that offer you free or cheap wedding budget calculators that will do it for you.

With these calculators, all that you have to do is give it the total budget amount and then it will calculate for you how much money in dollars that you will have to spend on each aspect of your wedding.

Once you have figured out the dollar amount that you can spend on each aspect of the wedding, you can then begin to create a chart that will itemize the list for you. I have included a quick table to help you out in this area.

| Category(what must be done) | Goal (what you want for what must be done) |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Reception | |
| Ceremony | |
| Photography/Videography | |
| Catering | |
| Rings | |
| Attire | |
| Music | |

Shoestring Wedding

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Flowers | |
| Honeymoon | |
| Miscellaneous | |
| Decorations | |

What this table is meant to show you is what needs to be done, but the blank areas are designed as a means of bringing out the dream of it all into reality. You have to make a list of all of the things that you will need to get in order to fulfill your wedding hopes.

This is necessary in order to know if what you dream of can even be afforded within your set budget. If it can't, you will have to do any or all of the following:

- Lower the guest list
- Forego some of the services
- Lessen the wedding party
- Forget the extras like limos

It is with the budget that you can set realistic goals for your wedding and whether or not if your budget is realistic to your finances. If it isn't, you will have to change or get rid of something. It's that simple.

Once you have decided what you want to include and what you can afford, it is on to the planning stage.

The Planning Timeline

The first thing that needs to be considered when planning the ultimate wedding is how much time you will give yourself for the planning. In essence; this means what day that you will set the date of the wedding.

This may sound like a trivial matter, but it really is important because it will let you know what the time limit is for making your preparations.

Some weddings can take up to 3-4 months to prepare for and plan. This is pretty typical; depending on how big you are planning for your wedding to be and how fancy etc.

If you are not giving yourself more than a month, then planning is naturally different. Because of the differences in the time that you are giving yourself to planning the wedding, it is best to give the best planning methods and you may use them or not use them as they apply to your case.

One of the most important factors that go with planning a wedding is determining who you will be delegating specific duties to. For example, if you are terrible at choosing flowers, who will you assign to do it for you?

It is always best to try to give different duties to others so that you will not be overwhelmed by them yourself. Let's take a look at some of the various duties that you can hand out:

Catering: Who do you believe would be the best person to handle all of the arrangements for the food and drink at your wedding?

Invitations and seating arrangements: This person will be addressing and mailing out invitations and making sure that people are seated in a fashion that will ensure everyone's mutual comfort and enjoyment ...

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