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Introduction

When it comes to planning your wedding, it's difficult to eliminate some of the features and elements that are most important to you.

With this complete guide to planning the ultimate wedding on a shoestring budget, you won't have to.

In This Ebook You Will Learn:

- How To Minimize Costs Without Sacrificing Elements
- How to Save Money On All Of Your Wedding Costs
- How To Identify Vendors That Are Over Charging
- How To Plan Your Wedding From A to Z
- Planning The Most Memorable Wedding Day Possible

Wedding Planning On A Budget

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding!

Planning a wedding should be the most memorable experience of your life. After all, you are about to begin a new adventure shared with the one you love.

Unfortunately, when it comes to planning a wedding unless you have an unlimited budget, it can be a frustrating and overwhelming task. First, you have to determine your budget and then you need to do your best to stay within this amount, which often means cutting corners and eliminating some of the most important elements and features of your day.

Weddings are incredibly expensive if you go the traditional route without knowing how to deal with vendors or negotiate on costs.

With the “Wedding Planning On A Budget” guide however, I reveal my personal strategies for saving money on all aspects of your wedding planning as well as how to ensure that your day goes smoothly with little stress involved.

You deserve the ultimate wedding of your dreams, and with my money saving tips and techniques; I truly believe that you will be able to achieve this.

- **Step One: Determine Your Budget**

To begin, you need to sit down with your partner and determine a reasonable budget. Evaluate your finances and how much you are both comfortable with spending on your wedding.

This isn't the time to determine the costs of each element, it's just the taking the first step in your wedding planning and deciding, together, what your wedding fund will be.

The Pre-Planning Phase is a critical step in ensuring that you are organized and on track.

Many couples overlook this very important step, and start planning their wedding without a firm budget in mind. This will make things incredibly difficult when you find yourself out of money and out of time, without the wedding completely planned and ready for your big day.

Sit down together and determine a fair budget. You can always

adjust the budget later on down the road if needed, but for now, be open with each other, discuss possible numbers until you come to a reasonable budget without leaving you both struggling to pay off a massive debt once you begin your married life together.

After all, your wedding is a celebration of your love and the last thing you want to do is venture into a marriage where you are tied down to a debt that will take years to pay off. Consider what your objectives are for the first year of your marriage.

Do you want to put a down payment on a house? Upgrade a home? Take an extended vacation? You will need to thoroughly examine what your budget is going to be while allowing you both the ability to save for your future long after the wedding is over.

It's easy to get excited about your wedding planning and take out huge loans or borrow from friends and family without considering how difficult it may be to pay it back over time.

Consider your friends and family who may be interested in helping with certain aspects of your wedding. Perhaps you have a cousin who is a florist or an aunt who would be more than happy to play piano during your ceremony.

You'd be surprised at just how many costly elements you can eliminate by considering friends and family for certain tasks. Best of all, they will be thrilled that you are involving them in your wedding day!

When considering your budget, keep in mind that the majority of a wedding budget is traditionally spent on the reception. The food, drinks, rentals and venue that you choose will take up a large portion of your budget, depending on the type of food served, the number of guests and whether you are footing the entire bill or having friends and family cook, bake and help out.

Your wedding apparel will take up an estimated 15% of your budget as well, and your photographer and videographer another 10-15% by traditional pricing. You could opt to have a friend video tape the wedding for you, as well as a friend or family member that you trust, taking your photographs. This will save a lot of money on your wedding, however be careful in who you choose as you will never be able to capture your wedding again.

If you find that your budget is far too small, start saving every week by deciding to put a specific amount away. You could open a bank account that is used exclusively for your wedding.

- **Step Two: Pre-Planning Phase**

In order to begin planning your wedding you will both need to discuss what the most important features and aspects of your day will be. Depending on religion or lifestyles, you both may have specific elements that you feel must be included, and these can affect the budget so it's critical that you write down the "no bargain" aspects of your wedding that you feel you just can't do without.

If you haven't yet set a wedding date, this is the time to do so. Consider what time of year you should have your wedding (considering the guests and their vacation time or ability to attend based on work), as well as whether you are looking to have a wedding locally or away.

The most expensive months in which to get married are spring, summer and early fall, as well as the Christmas and Valentine's Day holidays. If you have a wedding that takes place in late fall or early winter you will be able to dramatically trim down on costs.

Also consider the day of the week as this will also have an impact on your venue costs. Weddings that take place during a weekday are usually far more affordable than a weekend wedding, where venues are in demand and more couples are trying to secure locations. Often times, vendors will negotiate on costs if you book during an "off

day” because they know they are less likely to fill that spot otherwise.

And finally, the time of day also plays a factor in costs. Generally, weddings that take place earlier in the day will cost less than late afternoon, early evening wedding events.

Try to be flexible with the date you choose especially if it will help you stretch the budget even further, enabling you to save money or spend it on other elements of your wedding day that you might otherwise not be able to afford.

Here are a few other questions you will need to discuss before moving past the pre-planning phase:

- How many guests would you like to attend?
Write down all of the friends and family members that are most important to you. (Create your “must attend” list first)
- What type of venue would you like to be married in?
Would you like an indoor lavish reception, and outdoor garden reception, a smaller intimate reception?
- What aspect of your wedding day is most important to you both?

- How many groomsmen, bridesmaids and other wedding party members are you looking to have?
- Will you have a DJ or a band at your reception?
DJ's are usually far more affordable than a band.
- Should your wedding have a specific theme, and if so, what?
- Will you have a buffet style reception or a sit down dinner?
- Will you have an open bar, limited or none at all?
- Where would you like to go on your honeymoon?

These are just a few of the many questions that you will need to discuss, and while the budget will be affected depending on your choices, you can always trim down as you need to once you begin planning.

Book off a weekend where you and your partner can discuss your wedding, away from noise and distraction. Jot down ideas, notes and suggestions that you both have about your wedding preparations and what you believe are most important elements.

This is very necessary if you want to understand one another and ensure that you include the features and aspects that will make your day extra special.

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