



Brides planning a wedding

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NOTES TO THE READER

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INTRODUCTION

This book is all about brides planning a wedding. Is a comprehensive ebook guide for brides and planners? First, congratulations on your engagement! We understand how exciting yet challenging planning a wedding can be, and as one of the largest wedding eBook online, we are dedicated to helping you plan the day of your dreams. Take a look at our great chapters of free wedding planning tools, all designed to keep you organized and on top of every important detail surrounding your wedding. Thanks

THE GUIDE BRIDE'S WEDDING CHECKLIST

10-12 MONTHS TO GO

- Work out your budget and establish your top priorities where to save/ where to splurge.
- Compile your preliminary guest list (you'll need that guest count!).
- Choose your wedding party who do you want by your side at the altar?
- Find a venue for your ceremony and reception, and reserve your date. Know what questions to ask when evaluating a wedding venue.
- Now that you have a date, tell everyone to save it! For destination weddings or weddings around a holiday, consider sending out Save-the-Date cards or emails. Or create your own wedding website, and let your invitees know about it.
- Find a dress and begin assembling the perfect accessories. Need inspiration? Visit a wedding dress trunk show or bridal fair.
- Find a vendor. Assemble an all-star vendor team. We'd start with:
 - Caterer
 - Photographer/ Videographer
 - Officiant

When you hire a vendor, get all the details in writing!

- Already feeling overwhelmed? Consider hiring a wedding planner.
- Another way to minimize stress: Start dreaming up your honeymoon... and check out our plan a honeymoon section on HereComesTheGuide.com.

6-9 MONTHS TO GO

- Continue researching, interviewing and booking vendors. And don't forget, when you hire one make sure to put everything in writing
 - Decide on arrangements with your floral designer.

- Do a tasting and choose your wedding cake with your cake designer
- Hire the DJ/Entertainment for your ceremony, cocktail hour and reception.
- Discuss the style and wording of your wedding invitations with a Stationer.
- Create your gift registry (and don't forget to update your wedding website!).
- Arrange hotel room blocks for out of town guest and book your own suite for the wedding night.
- Shop for bridesmaid/flower girl dresses and give your attendants clear instructions on how to place their orders.
- Arrange and book any necessary transportation.
- Go over bridal shower/bachelorette details and the guest list with the person hosting your party.

3-5 MONTHS TO GO

- Book the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner location(s). If you're including entertainment or specialty details like a groom's cake, now's the time to lock in these elements.
- Put together your rehearsal dinner guest list.
- Order wedding favors for your guests.
- Shop for and reserve men's formalwear.
- Concentrate on finalizing the:
 - Guest list. Get everyone's mailing address.
 - Invitation wording. Confirm your invitation text with the Stationer, and consider additional stationery (programs, menu cards, place cards, thank-you cards, etc.). Schedule a pickup date for your invites.
 - Ceremony readings and vows.

- Menu, beverage and catering details.
- Timeline of the reception formalities.
- Do a Makeup & Hair trial and book your stylists. While you're at it, come up with your own beauty and fitness regimen to be camera-ready for the big day.
- Shop for and purchase your wedding rings.
- Finalize honeymoon plans and obtain all necessary documents (are you sure your passports are up to date?).

6-8 WEEKS TO GO

- You're getting close.... Mail out those invitations! Have a game plan for recording the RSVPs and meal choices.
- Touch base with your vendors to confirm date, deposits and details.
- Start researching marriage license requirements and name-change paperwork.
- Begin your dress fittings. Be sure to buy the appropriate undergarments beforehand.
- So you think you can't dance? Consider taking a dance lesson with your fiancé—a good way to break in your bridal shoes!
- Give the wedding party a nudge make sure they've ordered all necessary attire.
- Write thank-you cards for shower gifts and any early wedding gifts received.

3-5 WEEKS TO GO

- Send out rehearsal dinner invitations. If your get-together will be informal, feel free to send an Evite.
- Finalize and confirm:
 - Wedding vows and readings with your Officiate.
 - Shot list with your Photographer/Videographer.

- Song list for ceremony, cocktail hour and reception with your DJ and/or Band/Musicians.
- Timeline for the reception and who's giving the toasts.
- Wedding night and honeymoon accommodations.
- Obtain marriage license and complete name-change documents, if applicable.
- Pick up your wedding rings and proofread any engraving!
- If you're the traditional type, do you have something old, new, borrowed and blue?
- Purchase your guest book, toasting flutes, cake servers, unity candle, and all that good stuff.
- Have your final dress fitting. Bring your shoes and accessories for the full impact.

1-2 WEEKS TO GO

- Give your caterer/venue the final guest count.
- Arrange seating and create the seating chart and/or place cards.
- Pick up your gown. Swoon.
- Confirm arrival times and finalize the wedding timeline with vendors and the wedding party—make sure your MOH has a copy, too.
- Put together your own bridal emergency kit.
- Speaking of emergencies: Check the weather report, and if things look iffy contact your venue to make sure a contingency plan is in place.
- Start packing for your honeymoon. (See “weather report” above.)
- In desperate need of a facial or massage? Now's the time to squeeze one in.

The Day Before...

- Make sure all wedding-day items are packed laid out and ready to go! (Don't forget the rings and marriage license!)

- Figure out tips and final payments for vendors. Put them in clearly marked envelopes and give them to the Best Man or another person you trust to hand out at the reception.
- Assign someone to pack up your gifts/belongings after the reception (don't forget the top tier of your cake!).
- Thank your BFF for agreeing to return your groom's tux and other rental items the day after the wedding.
- Enjoy a mani-pedi.
- Attend the rehearsal and dinner. Now's the time to give out wedding party gifts.
- Try to go to bed early...you need your beauty sleep tonight.

Here Comes The Guide Bride!

- Allow plenty of time for the bride beautification process.
- Do the rounds at your wedding greet everyone and thank them for coming.
- Take a deep breath. Stop to appreciate your new spouse and the day that you spent so much time planning!

After the Honeymoon/Back to Reality

- Write and send thank-you cards.
- Complete your registry and exchange any unwanted or duplicate gifts.
- Have your wedding dress cleaned and preserved by a reputable company.
- Keep in touch with your Photographer/Videographer to work on albums, DVDs, etc.
- Enjoy wedded bliss...

Bridal Beauty: Top 13 Bridal Beauty Don'ts

We polled hundreds of wedding beauty experts for their top tips for brides who want to put their best face forward and we couldn't believe the results. Here they are!

1. Don't drink wine or eat dark-colored foods like berries.

Unless you want to capture a stained smile in your wedding photos, you should avoid foods that can tint your pearly whites. To get 'em extra pearly, invest in a professional teeth whitening service.

2. Don't tan.

Not only are you putting yourself at risk of skin damage, but getting too dark a tan can look unnatural in wedding photos. Especially if it's a spray tan gone wrong.

3. Don't get your first-ever bikini wax just before your wedding.

If you plan to wax your bikini line, begin the process at least three months beforehand or face the consequences.

4. Don't change your birth control, skin-care program, washing detergent, etc., less than six weeks before the wedding.

Sure, that fabric softener might be on sale, but that new rash you get from it? Hardly a sweet deal.

5. Don't ingest excess sodium the week before the wedding.

That means no salty foods, sauces, dressings, or salty deli meats. Instead, choose low or no sodium everything starting at least seven days before the wedding. "Sodium holds 50 times its weight in water, so you can shed two to five pounds the week before the wedding just by doing this!" says Liz DiAlto of fit, health and beautiful in New York City.

6. Don't flat-iron your hair before a trial or on your big day.

That cute, flat-ironed hairstyle you had for your rehearsal dinner is going to wreak havoc on the curly look you're planning for your ceremony. "If you're aiming for soft, romantic curls on your wedding day, you need to have fresh hair," says Samara Binder of bridal beauty Chicago. "That means if you flat-iron your hair the night before, make sure to wash it out!"

7. Don't sit around in your bra the morning of your wedding.

Makeup artist and hair stylist Nicole Francavilla, of beauty by Nicole in Orange County, New York, says this is the best way to avoid those unsightly pink indents on your back and shoulders (especially if you're wearing a strapless dress!). And if you're wearing your hair up but don't wear your hair up often? "My suggestion is to take an Advil with your breakfast to eliminate the possibility of an headache," she says.

8. Don't skimp on water!

Double up on your water intake for at least one month prior to the wedding to keep your skin clear and glowing. You should also limit the toasting at your prewedding parties. "During the rehearsal dinner, try to switch back and forth between alcohol and a glass of water," says makeup artist Adriana Fontes of Adriana Fontes makeup design in Chandler, Arizona.

9. Don't forget your beauty emergency kit.

Trust us and hair and makeup expert Megan Garmers when we say this will be a lifesaver. Include different sized safety pins, double-sided sticky tape, a small sewing kit, a small pair of scissors, a bleach pen, bobby pins, hair spray, blotting papers, gum or mints, a razor, deodorant, Band-Aids, a small packs of tissue, nail polish remover, clear nail polish, an emery board, a nail clipper, makeup remover wipes, tampons, and anything else you think you might need. "Be prepared for what can go wrong so it doesn't ruin your day," Garmers says.

10. Don't forget to touch up!

It's okay to be a little high-maintenance bring a touch-up bag and actually use the products at the reception.

11. Don't cry off all your beautiful makeup!

Tears will happen, so it's important to know how to weep correctly. "Hold a tissue in each hand. Then press the tissues in the tear duct and let the tears run into the tissue and keep changing the tissue," says Catherine Sullivan of fresh face Chicago. "This keeps you from rubbing your face and eyes and ruining your beautiful face."

WEDDING BUDGET 101: ESTABLISHING YOUR WEDDING BUDGET

From creating your wedding budget to saving without sacrifice, we'll show you how it's done.

Figuring out your wedding budget can be stressful, but doesn't worry whether you're dreaming of a lavish hotel affair or an intimate garden get-together, answering these questions will help you figure out what you have to spend to make it happen.

Who's Paying for the Wedding?

Talk with your families about who will pay for what: Some brides' families still pick up the entire tab, but more and more groom's families are participating too. How do you bring up the conversation? For many couples, talking to each family separately is the best way to have truly open discussions. When you do talk, here are strategies for determining your initial budget.

- Ask both of your folks to commit to a specific dollar amount, and then add up all the contributions to create your budget.
- Alternatively, it may be easier to ask each set of parents to finance a particular aspect of the wedding (such as the ceremony, honeymoon, or catering) instead of just committing to a dollar amount.
- Decide how much you two can contribute between now and the wedding. (37 % of the couples we polled say they're planning to contribute financially to their wedding.)

How Much Do You Actually Need for the Wedding?

Just like buying shoes, an apartment, or a pair of jeans, when it comes to financing a wedding, you should figure out how much you need to spend to get what you want. Set your expectations accordingly. **Knot Note:** The average cost for a 150-person wedding is about \$27,000 (higher in urban areas).

- Here is a basic breakdown of what you can expect to pay:
 - Reception: 48%–50%
 - Ceremony: 2%–3%
 - Attire: 8%–10%
 - Flowers: 8%–10%

Entertainment/Music: 8%–10%

Photography/Videography: 10%–12%

Stationery: 2%–3%

Wedding Rings: 2%–3%

Parking/Transportation: 2%–3%

Gifts: 2%–3%

Miscellaneous: 8%

- To avoid stress, allot about 5% of your budget for a "just-in-case" fund.
- If you're paying for your honeymoon yourselves, remember to budget for that as well.

How Much Should You Save for the Wedding?

As soon as you're engaged, start putting aside as much of your income as you can for the wedding. Saving 20% of your monthly income is a good though painful goal. The longer your engagement, the more you'll be able to sock away.

- Ways to save: Limit your spending on small stuff (renting movies instead of going out; going to Starbucks once instead of twice a day; downloading just the song you love instead of buying the whole CD). These changes will hardly affect your quality of life, but after a year, the extra cash will cover some wedding essentials.
- Make the most of your money: Instead of stashing your money in a low-interest savings account, consider buying CDs or opening a money-market account. The interest rate can be double that of a savings account. Just check the fine print to avoid penalties.

HOW TO PLAN A WEDDING ON A SMALL BUDGET

Planning a wedding on a small budget isn't the end of the world. As a matter of fact, it's far easier to think of it as a new beginning one where you're a bit wiser and much more frugal with your spending.

One of the keys to planning a wedding on a small budget is clever strategizing and prudent prioritizing. By planning ahead and getting priorities in line, there will be very few surprises as well as significantly fewer disappointments. That being said, it's time to break out that budgetary wedding check list and start laying down a few plans.

As described on the weddings on a budget homepage, the wedding budget should be broken down into 4 distinct pillars.

The 4 Pillars of How to Plan a Wedding on a Small Budget...

- **Reception.** Location rental, food & drink, location services, (About 50% of entire budget)
- **Clothing.** Wedding dress for the bride, tuxedo for the groom, as well as dresses for the bridesmaids. (10% of the budget)
- **Music, Entertainment, Decorations, Flowers, Photography.** (30% of wedding budget)
- **Miscellaneous.** Invitations, bridal party transportation, clergy cost and other various fees and expenses. (Remaining 10% of Budget)

It's unwise to try and tackle all 4 of these wedding pillars at once. You'll be overwhelmed far faster than you could imagine. That said, pick **ONLY ONE** section and start hammering out the details. Once you've dealt with one pillar of the wedding plans **COMPLETELY**, move onto the next one and do the same. This is the only way of successfully planning a wedding on a small budget while still maintaining your sanity.

Here Are Some Helpful Hints On How to Plan a Wedding On a Small Budget...

1.) Get a general estimate of what you want to spend for the **ENTIRE** wedding. If the families of the bride and groom are splitting the bill, find out how much they feel comfortable paying.

2.) Create a detailed list of everything you want included in the wedding. Doesn't matter how small or inconsequential the detail may seem, make sure to write it down on your list. This is a hugely important part of how to plan a wedding on a small budget. Do NOT Skip IT.

3.) With the wedding-list placed in front of you, get ready to start a new list called the "priority list". Move everything from your first list to the second, starting with the most important things and ending with the least important. Once the priority-list is complete, go over it with your husband (or wife) and make sure you agree on everything. (This will be very helpful later on)

4.) Don't invite the "world" to your wedding. The more people at the wedding, the more expensive things get, period. Besides, do you really want to go around and visit hundreds, if not a thousand, people during the reception? Probably not! Discuss with your husband (or wife) how many people you want at the wedding. Once you've got some idea about the number of people, you can work from there.

5.) Scout for great, low-cost wedding locations. Instead of calling up that fancy motel and booking a date right away, why not take some time to look around and see what's available? There are plenty of amazing, low cost places to have your wedding ceremony and reception; most of which aren't even hotels or country clubs.

Planning a wedding on a small budget doesn't have to be a nightmare. In fact, with a little patience and a small nudge in the right direction, it can actually be an enjoyable, memorable experience.

Planning a wedding can be a daunting and very stressful task. We highly recommend you take six months to a year to plan your wedding and will outline for you an easy-to-follow schedule.

Twelve months before the Wedding

- Get yourself a binder with paper and dividing tabs.
- Discuss with your fiancé and his/her families, plus your own, to determine a budget.

- Decide on your wedding theme e.g. Christmas, fall, Snowflakes, Black and White, etc.
- Select a wedding date with your fiancé and families.
- Decide on your wedding attendants.
- Book a ceremony and reception location(s).
- Book your professional wedding photographer, florist, caterer, videographer, and DJ or wedding musicians.

Nine months before the Wedding

- Make an appointment with your officiate. For most religious ceremonies, you may be required to attend pre-wedding counseling. For civil ceremonies, your officiate may require a meeting to discuss your wedding ceremony.
- Wedding gown shopping and first fittings should be looked after at this time.
- Shop for your wedding accessories, wedding veil or head piece, and wedding shoes.
- Begin preparation of the guest list. Be sure to include both sides of the family as guest lists are often a contentious issue. It will take time to decide on long lost cousins, work friends, neighbors, etc.
- Decide on gift registry locations and register.
- Begin your search for your honeymoon location. If you are getting married during a peak holiday season such as Christmas, you may need to book your honeymoon up to nine months in advance.

Six months before the Wedding

- You need to meet with the wedding professionals who will assist you on your special day. The menu should be mapped out with your catering company, a review of requested wedding photos with your photographer, a discussion with your videographer on the amount of footage and locations for videos, and your preference for music with your DJ or wedding musicians.

- Limousines and/or other wedding transportation should be booked. Wedding carriages or winter horse drawn sleighs should be booked and pricing confirmed.
- If you are ordering wedding invitations and/or save the date cards and wedding announcements, you need to decide on a provider. If you are making your own wedding invitations and other wedding stationery, you should choose a wedding invitation kit template package. Announcements should be sent out to those friends and family who you have not included in the ceremony.
- Honeymoon trip should be booked and final budget plans for the honeymoon confirmed.
- Bridesmaids and Flower Girl dresses should be decided upon and ordered.
- Start shopping for wedding rings.

Three months before the Wedding

- Guest list needs to be finalized by you and your fiancé and BOTH families. We can't emphasize enough that you need to have the blessing of all concerned when it comes to the guest list.
- Final decisions and ordering of wedding rings.
- Visit hairstylist for a consultation and have your first wedding day hair run through.
- Make wedding day appointment with hairstylist. Don't forget to include your bridesmaids if they are having their hair professionally styled for your wedding.
- Research and review state requirements for blood tests.
- Research, review and book hotel rooms for out of town guests who may require accommodation.
- Follow up on your wedding gown and confirmation of delivery dates for your gown and those of your attendants.

- Attend your first wedding gown fitting including all accessories and shoes.

Six to eight weeks before the Wedding

- Prepare your wedding invitation kit templates for printing, including the Thank You cards.
- If you have ordered your invites from a commercial business, be sure they are ready for you.
- Address and mail the wedding invitations.
- Shop for and purchase any wedding gifts for your fiancé, attendants, parents and grandparents.
- Attend your final dress fitting including wedding accessories.
- Spend time wearing your wedding shoes so that you are not crippled before the wedding dance starts.
- Test a spray on tan if you plan to tan for your wedding.
- Make final decisions on your wedding hair style and any hair color changes should be made.
- Pick up your wedding rings from your jewelry shop.
- Print out your personalized Thank you cards from your wedding invitation kit templates or purchase generic Thank you cards.
- Send any Thank you cards for wedding or shower gifts received over the past weeks.

10 – 14 Days before the Wedding

- Confirm with your caterer with one final review of the menu.
- Confirm with your officiant the venue and time of ceremony.
- Confirm with your photographer, videographer, DJ and/or wedding band.
- Confirm your honeymoon reservation and any special requests for the wedding night.
- Address any wedding announcements, stamp and set in preparation of mailing on your wedding day.

- Final visit to your hairstylist to review any last minute concerns or changes.

One Week before the Wedding

- Attend any last minute parties or bridal showers in your honor.
- Write any Thank you cards for gifts received at these functions.
- Give the caterer your final number of guests expected to attend.
- Bridesmaids and Flower Girl confirmation of the time they are expected to arrive.
- Purchase travel insurance for the honeymoon if you are leaving the country.
- Purchase travelers checks for the honeymoon holiday.
- Double check to be sure those travelers checks are accepted and easily cashed at your final destination.



THE BENEFITS OF WEDDING PLANNING SERVICES

There is nothing more important than choosing the best wedding planning services to organize and coordinate your special day. Not only will they ensure you have every detail planned right down to the precise color and font choice, but they will also make your wedding one that will be a lasting memory.

Your wedding event coordinator should work one-on-one with you regularly to create a plan that not only meets your specifications, but also helps you create the wedding of your dreams. The event coordinator should also help with planning a wedding shower.

Surfing through each website as you conduct your research will bring forth a plethora of gorgeous photographs showcasing each of these event planner's previous work, as well as examples of work they can produce for you. If you are stumped for ideas, this is a great place to start. Not only will you ensure that these wedding planning services, planning a wedding shower, wedding event coordinator, wedding event planner will meet your needs, but you will also be put in touch with the best in the area.

Some of the services provided include helping the bride with the selection of her dress, organization of the bridal registry, helping with bridesmaids dress selections, planning budgets, decisions regarding the menu and which caterer to choose, and what type of decorations to use. Additional services include arrangements for destination weddings, engagements parties, and the entertainment during the wedding reception.

Do you need etiquette advice? Your wedding planner will help you with that. Are you concerned about what will happen when gifts start arriving? Your wedding coordinator can help make arrangements for them. Are you overwhelmed by all the options for custom printing on paper, linen choices, favors, invitation designs, and floral designs? Your wedding event planner will help put all of these puzzle pieces together and take all the stress out of your big day.

By contacting any of these wedding planners or wedding event coordinators, be it by visiting their website or contacting them by phone, you are taking the right step toward bringing your wedding planning dreams to reality. Not only will you be put in touch with the best possible event planners in the area, but they will

ensure that every detail of your special day will be met in a professional and timely manner. It's essential that you research each of the wedding planning services, planning a wedding shower, wedding event coordinator, wedding event planner prior to making a final decision.

THE BENEFITS OF BEING A WEDDING PLANNER AND HOW TO BECOME ONE

One of the first decisions to make when you decide you would like to become a professional wedding planner is whether you work as part of an established company or be an independent and work alone. Many budding wedding coordinators choose to run their own business as they can work from home with limited overheads. It is also possible to fit it around family commitments and the overheads would not be too serious as you don't have to pay for special premises. With the prospect of keeping all the profits from the venture it is no surprise that 60 to 70 per cent of consultants start as independents.

Even so, working for a public company can have its own benefits. Firstly the publicity is better and you might have access to a wider range of clients. You could also avail yourself of the larger company resources and their contacts.

However, it is even more important to check that becoming a wedding planner is the right profession for you to pursue now or in the future.

Wedding Planner Skills

There are a number of skills required for those who want to be wedding coordinators. Some are natural while others are learned. A number of successful wedding planners have degrees in event planning. Others will have done a business course or worked in retail or done art and craft at college. These learnt skills will be very beneficial, especially if you plan to run your own business. You will also need to set up records and accounts as well as develop contacts with a number of reliable suppliers from photographers to caterers, from venues to registrars, etc.

Natural qualities that are very valuable are not only organizational skills but also the ability to keep everyone calm. You will need to be a good

communicator as well as a good listener. You will also need to network with businesses and prospective clients. If you feel there is much you need to learn, you might be better to start as part of a larger company and only branch out on your own when you feel more successful and that you have a good understanding of what it means to be a successful wedding planner.

Finance and Wedding Planning

One thing is certain, people are using the services of wedding planners and they are paying for the privileges of their services. This means there is the means to make a living. Many weddings are big affairs and as a consultant you can earn a good sized fee. How big and how successful you become will depend on the size of weddings you do, the reputation you build up as well as how good you are at negotiating deals and building up a reliable network of suppliers. The standard fee is about ten to fifteen per cent of the overall costs. The cost of the wedding will depend on the facilities required and the number of guests. A typical fee for a wedding planner can be between £1000 and £4000 per wedding.

The Life of A Wedding Planner

As a wedding planner, you will need to be able to handle stress of varying proportions without losing your cool. You will also need to remember all the smaller details as well as the overall events of the day. There will also be many difficulties which you will need to overcome (although with experience these should become easier to deal with if not avoid altogether). On the other hand, you do get to relive countless "happiest days" over and over again, although they will be other peoples "happiest days" the satisfaction level of this type of job done well, will be high.

10 REASONS YOU SHOULD HIRE A WEDDING PLANNER

A wedding planner could just be the best thing you spend money on. We spoke to wedding planning specialist and director at wedding bells and beaus, Marie Costigan, to find out why you should hire a wedding planner. Here are her top ten reasons:

Reason #1: You deserve everything to be perfect on your big day.

It takes a lot of time and hard work to pull a wedding together perfectly. A wedding planner has organized a wedding a hundred times, and with practice comes perfection. They know the right people to talk to, how to get the best prices, what should (and shouldn't) be in a contract, and how to ensure that every single detail is prepared for your big day.

Reason #2: You're not very good at sticking to a budget.

Money is one of the hardest aspects of planning your wedding. Who's paying, how much, when is your bill due and how do you ensure you don't spend too much of it? A wedding planner is like a financial adviser or an accountant who specializes in weddings. They know how much things should cost, roughly what percentage of your budget will be spent in each area, whether, and when payments will need to be made in order to secure services or products.

Reason #3: Your wedding planning experience should be enjoyable, not stressful.

Whether your engagement is long or short, you should enjoy every moment of that special time with your dream man. Most importantly, you do not want to turn into a neurotic Bridezilla who can't sleep, can't eat, can't work and is constantly stressing about how much work there is to be done. Since it's our job, a wedding planner has time and the skills to deal with everything on your behalf. All you have to worry about is taking care of yourself and enjoying your engagement period.

Reason #4: You don't want to spend hours finding suppliers and trying to figure out who is trustworthy.

It's daunting to know how many suppliers are out there (and how many people it takes to make a wedding a success). Knowing who to trust and who is right for you is one of the hardest tasks of planning a wedding. Once you find a great wedding planner however, the rest is much easier. They can recommend suppliers they've worked with before and know how to get the best prices, and the best results, from them. "Even if we have to use a new supplier, we know how to find the best one for your style and price."

Reason #5: You don't want to worry about forgetting to plan or pay for something.

Wedding checklists can be pages long, so it's no surprise if you're worried about forgetting something. Luckily a planner knows what needs to be done like the back of their hand! They will keep track of all your deadlines and remind you when things need to be done and decided on. Nothing will ever be missed, and there's no danger that something won't turn up on the day because of poor preparation.

Reason #6: You both work and you don't want wedding planning to take over your life.

Planning a wedding takes a lot of time, even more if you do everything yourself. Having a wedding planner is like having a personal assistant whose sole responsibility is doing all the running around for your wedding.

Reason #7: You have a great venue coordinator but they don't take care about any of the other details.

You've already found your venue and you get on really well with the venue coordinator (the person who takes care of all the logistics of the venue and often is provided as part of your wedding package). She's great and has got everything under control; she's even given you a recommended list of suppliers that they work with. But keep in mind, that's generally as far as her services extend. A wedding planner goes beyond these tasks and can help you manage your budget, mediate disputes with your family, tell you what flowers are in

season on your wedding date, take you to meet the other suppliers, research prices, and anything else you wish.

Reason #8: You need help making your vision a reality.

No matter whether you know exactly what you want, have a vague idea, or no idea at all, a wedding planner can help you define the look, style, mood and emotions you want to create. They know the latest trends and are inspired daily by other brides, suppliers and the industry. They can visualize what will work in your venue and know how to bring your desired mood to life.

Reason #9: You're struggling to meet the demands of your friends and family.

Does your family have a different idea of how your wedding should look? Many brides have to deal with a plethora of conflicting opinions from their friends and family about how the wedding should unfold, and it can be hard to please everyone. Not to mention stressful. A wedding planner will deal with your family's expectations, show you the available options and can be relied upon to give you expert advice so you make an informed decision.

Reason #10: You're planning a wedding somewhere other than where you live.

Planning a destination wedding has its pros, but it's hard to organize suppliers that you've never met or imagine a space you've never seen in person. A wedding planner with experience in organizing abroad weddings has a trick or two up their sleeve for getting the job done the way you want.

"The truth is, planning a wedding takes a lot of time, energy and focus," says Costigan. "Sure, some bits of it are fun and exciting, but then there's the endless research, details to remember, payments to make and so on which aren't so much fun but are very necessary. Using one of our wedding planners means you're in control. It's definitely your day, your way, but you have a specialist working on your behalf to do the legwork, reduce your stress and ensure every detail is your kind of perfect."

5 REASONS YOU SHOULD USE THE COMPUTER AS A RESOURCE WHEN PLANNING YOUR WEDDING

Have you ever considered if you should and how you would use the computer as a resource when planning your wedding? Many people have thought about doing exactly the same thing. Some have actually done it. Most others have gotten bogged down with the negatives somewhere and never got started.

Wait a second! Are those really valid reasons? Did they really look at the positive side? Did we evaluate the advantages for? The issues in favor of? Maybe we ought to take a look at that. There are 5 reasons why you ought to use the computer as a resource when planning your wedding that should maybe be examined.

First, the computer can give you valuable tools that pen and paper won't provide, such as email alerts when deadlines are approaching. I completely understand your objection regarding keeping all your data on the computer, where it won't be available to you if you're not at your desk. I agree that that is a quite valid objection, but please consider, you can easily print out a hard copy of lists, addresses, phone numbers and anything else you need to carry with you in your purse. And moreover, one should consider that if you lose the hard copy you can print another. With a simple handwritten list you can't do that – if you lose it, it's gone.

Second, computer based data can easily be shared with others who need this information. The main reason behind that would be that you can, with no trouble at all, attach a file to an email and bring anyone that needs to be up to speed. This includes your assistant, your bridesmaids, vendors, family, or anyone else that you need. Plus the email attachments will provide a version history that can be useful to look back on in the future.

Third, using web-based planning tools can provide links to resources that you would not otherwise have been aware of. These can include vendor lists, ideas, tips, and access to discounts and deals you would never have known about. And in addition these resources can save you more money than you spend on them – they have an excellent return on investment rate!

Fourth, when you do your planning and scheduling "in the cloud" so to speak, all of your data is hosted offsite, so there's no chance of losing the hard copy – and you can also access it from any computer, and – in most cases – from your smart phone as well.

And fifth, many web based wedding services offer easy point and click tools for doing things like coding your own wedding website that would be impossible to do without the use of a computer. These tools allow you to experience your wedding planning, and to share that experience with those close to you, in a way that would be impossible without technology.

Within all of the above info lies a great list of reasons in favor of use the computer as a resource when planning your wedding. What do you think?

So now think about that for a minute or two. A good case has been made in favor. What if you really could use the computer as a resource when planning your wedding?

When you look at each of the reasons and evaluate them, you will need to admit that a very compelling case can be made for starting to consider the way to use the computer as a resource when planning your wedding.

Just think it over. Maybe, just maybe, you actually, in all seriousness, really should use the computer as a resource when planning your wedding.