

14 Ways to ✂ Your Wedding Budget

Weddings can be expensive! The average wedding now tops over \$27,000. In New York City, the average is over \$65,000. **The wedding industry brings in over \$30 billion!**

We all realize that weddings are big events. **Anything that involves renting a large space, food, drinks, flowers, and receiving gifts is going to be expensive.** But there are many ways to reduce the costs.

Consider these strategies to reduce your wedding budget:

FOCUS ON FUN RATHER THAN PERFECTION.

Fun is pretty inexpensive. Perfection costs a fortune. Think about a wedding that will be affordable and enjoyable for both you and your guests.

BE MINDFUL OF THE TIME OF YEAR.

The summer is the most expensive time of the year for a wedding. Any other time of the year can be 20-30% less expensive. Certain flowers are also cheaper or more expensive at certain times of the year.

AVOID THE "WEDDING SHOPS."

You can find many of the same items online or at regular department stores. Wedding shops are always more expensive.

DRESS DOWN WHILE SHOPPING.

Many florists have admitted quoting a price based upon the car and the clothing of the shopper.

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SKIP ENGRAVED INVITATIONS.

You can save up to \$500 by having your invitations thermo-graphed. They'll look just as good.

THINK ABOUT A MEAL OTHER THAN DINNER.

Having lunch or brunch at your wedding can save 30% on your reception. You can save even more by having an afternoon wedding with just cake and some hors d'oeuvres.

CHECK OUT THE PARK.

Many cities and towns rent out buildings and parks at a low rate.

CONSIDER GETTING YOUR TRANSPORTATION FROM A FUNERAL HOME.

Funeral homes frequently have limousines sitting idle. You might be able to call them and get a great deal.

PASS ON THE BAND.

Hiring a D.J. is much less expensive than a band.

NEGOTIATE.

When it comes to more expensive items, things are rarely set in stone. *Aggressively negotiating is the best way to save money on a wedding.*

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GET IT IN WRITING.

If the other party isn't willing to put it in writing, run the other way.

RENT YOUR DRESS.

What happens to wedding dresses after the big day? They sit in a box in the closet until your child tosses it out in 40+ years.

KEEP THE PHOTOS UNDER CONTROL.

- Photographers can be very expensive. Instead of hiring the same one for the wedding and reception, consider just hiring them for a shorter period of time.

ASK QUESTIONS.

Always ask about hidden costs. Maybe the venue will charge you extra tax and add on a high rate of gratuity. Bring a list of questions and ensure that the vendors are willing to answer every one of them.

Keep these tips in mind when planning your wedding. You can have a super fun wedding without breaking the bank.