

Wedding Planning Tips

1.) Staying organized is the best thing you can do to make planning your wedding go smoothly. Purchase a nice three-ring binder (and a three hole punch) with dividers to keep all of your contracts and paperwork organized and easily accessible.

2.) When asking a friend or relative to be an attendant in your wedding, be sure to explain what his or her responsibilities will be up front. This will avoid confusion later on.

3.) Try to register for gifts four to six months before the wedding. This will allow guests to purchase items from your registry for pre-wedding events. The best time to register is on a weekday evening, when crowds are thinner. Be sure to go back to the store(s) and update your registry every so often, as many stores turn over their inventory on a regular basis.

Never include registry information with the wedding invitation – this information needs to be spread by word-of-mouth or can be included at the bottom of the *shower* invitation.

4.) It is a nice idea to provide a map of the ceremony/reception site(s) in the invitations for out-of-town guests. This will cut down on a lot of confusion later on.

As you receive response cards from your guests, write the name and address of the guest on the back. Keep the RSVP cards in alphabetical order in a recipe box. When you open your gifts, pull out each guest's card and write a description of the gift you received from them. This makes writing thank-you notes a snap!

5.) The safest way to pay for wedding purchases is by credit card. This way, if there is anything wrong with the service or product, or if there is a breach of contract, it is easier to track the purchase and get a refund if necessary.

6.) When shopping for a photographer, be sure to view a *complete album* of one entire wedding. Look for consistency in the shots. Seeing only “the best” pictures from many weddings does not show consistency in work. Ask yourself if the shots adequately tell the “story” of the wedding. Also, ask lots of questions, and really get to know your photographer. Remember, this person will be with you from the beginning of your big day to the end, so you want to be very comfortable with them.

7.) You may wish to look into purchasing wedding insurance. Contact a reputable insurance agency for more information.

8.) When you order your wedding flowers, be sure to order a separate “toss bouquet.”

9.) Select your cake baker 3-6 months in advance. Have fun “taste-testing” different flavors!

10.) An ‘emergency’ kit is essential for the day of your wedding. Pack extra makeup, a comb, hair pins, needle & thread, scissors, safety pins, a nail file, clear nail polish, band aids, tissues, tooth brush, medicine, etc.

11.) Schedule your hair and make-up appointments three to six months in advance of the wedding.

12.) Try to get enough sleep, drink lots of water and eat nutritious meals during the months preceding the wedding. This will help you have lots of energy, feel great, and will make your hair, skin, and nails look their best.

13.) To avoid puffy eyes the day of your wedding, drink plenty of water at your rehearsal dinner, and avoid salt and alcohol.

Ladies, indulge yourself with a relaxing massage a few days before the wedding. Nothing will help to calm your nerves more than the tranquil environment of your favorite spa.