



Wedding **PLANNING BLUEPRINT**

HOW TO EASILY BUDGET YOUR WEDDING

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**COME ON,
PLANNING A
WEDDING, LET'S BE
HONEST, IT'S NOT
FUN. IT'S NOT FUN
BEING IN A
WEDDING.**

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- Wendi McLendon-Covey

1) Set a Budget

The key to budgeting is to set a budget. The average wedding costs around \$30 - 40,000. This is according to The Knot.com. However, this budget estimate does not include your honeymoon. Your honeymoon is on a whole different budget of its own. Why, because it is considered as a separate occasion apart from your wedding.

That amount of money is crazy when you think about it. The average person doesn't think about spending this amount every day. It is easily daunting to think about. And completely understandable to be freaking out because who personally thinks about spending 30,000. Hey honey, today I spent 30,000 dollars. Don't worry about it. It doesn't happen every day but there is a reason why it gets this high.

Let's break down your budget into separate categories. I am going to give you a percentage range that these categories fall into. Of course, depending on what you choose to be high priority on your list can change your budget.

Your reception is about 48-50% of your budget and this includes food and venue space. Photography/videography is about 10-12% of your budget. Attire, flowers, entertainment/music is about 8-10% of your budget. Any Miscellaneous is about 8% of your budget. Ceremony, stationery, wedding rings, parking/transportation, any gifts for family and wedding party is about 2-3% of your budget.

2) Payment Funnel

You are going to have to think about your payment funnel. Why? Because your budget, your guests' number and your venue funnels into every aspect of your wedding. Notice how budget is first on my list. Well your money needs to come from somewhere.

You need to figure out who is paying for the wedding? Is it going to be you and your fiancé? If so, how are you going to save enough money? Is it any one of your parents or family members? If so, what is the amount they can give and is there rules along with this money given. You need to know this so you can best map out your expense categories.

Regardless of who is paying, you need to use a budget planner or checklist to make sure you are keeping track of your spending. By breaking down your payments into different parts of your wedding you can physically see where your money is going. Which is important, if you can't see it then you are always going to wondering where

your money is going which can be so frustrating. You also need it to track your payments to vendors. Making sure you are paying on time while trying not to go over budget for anything.

You can see where you spent too much and where you still have space to spend. This gives you opportunities to weigh your priorities and move around your money accordingly.

3) Save Your Money

Couples always ask what is the best way to save money for a wedding? They do not want to be spending too money. How do you save money for it with bills and life expenses already in the loop? I am going to tell you the one I recommend. Put 5% of your income into a savings account for your wedding.

I am going to take it a step further. Collect any extra cash that you would use on a coffee or sandwich every single day and put it towards your wedding. You would be amazed the amount to money it equals to.

I am going to get a little Sheldon from Big Bang Theory on you for a minute, just for fun. Except, I don't know anything about protons, but I can tell you about an experiment with money.

If you get a Starbucks coffee every single day at your regular price. In one year, you spent between \$1,000 to 2,000. Mind blowing right. Even the slightest change like not having a Starbucks coffee and having a coffee from home can give you more money in your bank account. This is just an example of what you could save with minor adjustments to your life.

Another way to save money is with your wedding decisions. If you really want to save as much money as you can on your wedding, then you have to weigh your priorities. Think about the top things you cannot be cheap about and what you don't mind finding a more affordable approach to.

This could be having your cousin be your photographer or a student looking to build his or her profile. Or having the groom's men where their own black tux. Or think about your wedding month, the most affordable months to get married is January, February and March.

Saving money doesn't have to mean cheap. It just doesn't need to break the bank. There are many ways to slash your prices without taking away the quality of your wedding.

Wedding Budget/Expenses Checklist

RECEPTION (50%)	BUDGETED AMOUNT	VENDOR ESTIMATE	AMOUNT SPENT
Venue and rentals			
Food and service			
Beverages			
Cake			
Miscellaneous fees			
ATTIRE (10%)			
Gown and alterations			
Headpiece and veil			
Bridal accessories			
Hair and makeup			
Groom's tux or suit			
Groom's accessories			
Miscellaneous fees			
FLOWERS & DECORATIONS (10%)			
Ceremony flowers			
Flower girl's basket			
Ring pillow			
Bride's bouquet			
Bridesmaids' bouquets			
Boutonnieres			
Corsages			
Reception decorations			
Lighting			
Miscellaneous fees			
MUSIC (10%)			
Ceremony musicians			
Cocktail-hour musicians			
Band, DJ/ Entertainment			
Sound-system/ dance-floor rental			
Miscellaneous fees			

Wedding Budget/Expenses Checklist

CEREMONY (2%)	BUDGETED AMOUNT	VENDOR ESTIMATE	AMOUNT SPENT
Site fee			
Officiant fee/ donation			
Miscellaneous fees			
PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO (10%)			
Photography			
Videography			
Extra prints/ albums			
Miscellaneous fees			
FAVORS AND GIFTS (3%)			
Welcome gifts			
Bridal-party gifts			
Miscellaneous fees			
STATIONERY (2%)			
Save-the-date cards			
Invitations and RSVPs			
Programs			
Seating and place cards			
Menu cards			
Thank-you notes			
Postage			
Miscellaneous fees			
WEDDING RINGS (2%)			
Bride's ring			
Groom's ring			
TRANSPORTATION (1%)			
Vehicle rental (couple)			
Vehicle rental (wed party)			
Vehicle out of town guest			
Valet parking/ Extra fees			



thank
you

With Love,
Shanice Bannis