

Wedding Planning Do's & Don'ts

- **DO finalize your budget.** To avoid overspending, it's crucial to finalize your budget before moving on to the logistics. With a clear budget in place, you can confidently map out the rest of your plans without worrying about going over budget. Take the time to get your finances in order upfront and save yourself the stress later on.
- **DO arrive on time to all your appointments.** To help your visits go smoothly, it's recommended to book your appointment in advance and plan for 45-60 minutes at each location. Additionally, it's a thoughtful gesture to let them know if you're running early or late. By doing so, you can ensure a pleasant experience for all.
- **DO see your wedding venue in person.** Don't rely on pictures and videos alone to choose your wedding venue. Seeing it in person is the best way to get a true understanding of the space and how it all flows. Venues may only showcase their best features, but experiencing it firsthand allows you to envision your big day accurately. Take the time to explore your potential venue to ensure it's the perfect fit for you.
- **DO make an appointment.** Make the most of your visit to the wedding venue by scheduling a one-on-one appointment with the staff. This ensures that you get their undivided attention, and they can help you with any questions or concerns you may have. Avoid clashing with other events like tours, photo shoots, or actual events, by making an appointment in advance.

- **DO bring a list of questions to all your appointments.** When you think of it, it's hard comparing each venue you've toured when you asked different questions at each. Asking the same questions at each venue helps you easily compare all your options from your own perspective. To help make this process a breeze, create a personalized list of questions that best aligns with your wedding day vision.
- **DO have a trial run for your hair and makeup.** Do you have a clear vision of how you want your hair and makeup to look on your big day? Don't leave it up to chance that your artist does too. Schedule a trial run to ensure your vision is brought to life. Avoid stress by making sure everyone is on the same page before the wedding day. Book your trial run today and rest easy knowing you'll look just as you imagined on the most important day of your life.
- **DO ask for a final price quote.** Have you heard of the term "plus-plus" when it comes to venue fees? It means there are additional charges beyond the stated price, such as tax and service fees. Knowing this can make a big difference when budgeting for your event. To avoid surprises, make sure to request a quote that itemizes all additional fees and outlines a payment plan. That way, you'll have a clear picture of the total cost upfront.
- **DO have a plan B.** "Plan for the worst, hope for the best" is the golden rule for any big day. While it's natural to avoid the thought of things going wrong, it's the smart move to have a plan B in place. Being proactive doesn't necessarily mean something will go wrong. It just means you're in control. Having an alternative plan set in advance gives you peace of mind and ensures a flawless celebration.
- **DO take pictures of everything.** Want to remember every detail of your future wedding? Documenting them from your perspective can help! Take pictures of your venue, food, florals, dresses, etc. to keep track of it all! After a few tours, tastings, and shopping trips everything can start to blur together but with your notes and photos, you'll never forget a thing.

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- **DON'T feel pressured.** While discounts may be available for certain periods, don't let any vendor pressure you into reserving before you're ready. Keep in mind that deposits and retainers are usually non-refundable. Take your time and move forward at your own pace—you will know when you're ready.
- **DON'T leave without a copy of the contract.** Planning your dream wedding should be a joyous experience. However, reviewing contracts can be overwhelming. That's why it's best to take your time and review them in a peaceful and distraction-free environment, like the comfort of your own home. Feel free to highlight anything that raises questions and reach out to the venue for clarification. A little extra attention now will ensure a smoother run on your special day!
- **DON'T feel shy to ask about seeing the venue's calendar.** As you search for the perfect venue for your event, it's important to know what dates are available and selling quickly. A transparent venue will provide you with this information, giving you insight into the popularity of certain months and available dates to consider.
- **DON'T forget to have fun with the whole process.** Planning a wedding can bring a lot of stress, but don't forget to enjoy the process! You are not alone in this journey- there are people out there who want to help you achieve your vision. Keep a positive mindset and have fun with it!
- **DON'T forget about your fiancé.** Ladies, listen up! While wedding planning can be all-consuming, don't forget the real reason behind it all: marrying the love of your life. We know the allure of floral arrangements and dress fittings can be strong, but take a step back and give your fiancé some attention. Take a break from the to-do lists and talk about your future together.

The possibilities are endless, so focus on what really matters—your future with your partner. Skip the flowers and appetizers and give your partner a hug.

Remember, this is a major life transition, so make it count.

- **DON'T let your parents control your invite list.** Parents are used to being in control of things and it can be hard for them to let that control go. From the menu to the guest list, they might have opinions on everything. Don't worry, with a little negotiation, you can have your say and keep them happy. Start with your budget and guest count, then ask both sets of parents for their preferred invite lists. That way, you can make cuts if needed without hurting anyone's feelings. It's your big day, so stay strong and take charge!
- **DON'T forget to keep the day personal.** Make your wedding truly your own! It should represent your love story, interests, style, and backgrounds, not just mimic other weddings. Get inspired by the story of how you met, your first date, and engagement to add fun and unique elements to your big day. For instance, imagine having a snow cone machine at your summer wedding reception to symbolize how you got engaged on a snowy mountain. Guests will love reliving your special moments and you'll have a blast making your wedding unforgettable!
- **DON'T sweat the small (or big) stuff!** Every aspect of your wedding day might not go as planned, but don't forget what truly matters—your marriage! Don't stress about the little things, surround yourself with supportive people. Take it all in because this special day will fly by before you know it!
- **DON'T forget to thank your vendors.** Love your vendors and they'll love you back! By expressing gratitude and appreciation throughout the planning process, you'll create unforgettable magic on your big day. Let's build strong relationships with our vendors for a truly unforgettable wedding experience!