

*Top Tips for
Saving Money on Your
Big Day*

(Without Skimping on Style)

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Congratulations!

In joining a tribe of savvy bride and grooms-to-be. We hope our tips in this guide help you to manage your wedding budget and achieve your dream day, without skimping on style or breaking the bank!

Remember as you look through this guide to see what is applicable to your situation, and that the key to wedding budget success is prioritising what is most important to you and dropping those other items that you don't really need.

Your wedding day should be one of the most memorable and beautiful moments of your life, but it can easily become a stressful and costly event if not managed properly. You want your guests to have fun and to celebrate your union in style, but above all you should be able to have fun, relax and enjoy it yourself!

The average 2017 wedding in the UK costs a staggering £27,000. What with the cost of hiring a venue, the dress, the rings, the decorations - not to mention all the food, booze and wedding favours - it's easy to see how the costs can mount up. To rein in your budget, you need to prioritise.

What matters most to you about your big day? Would you rather send out fancy gold-gilded invitations or have an extra hour of dancing and laughter with friends and family at the reception? Are huge bouquets of expensive flowers going to make your day special, or can you keep it modest and spend the cost savings on a spectacular hen party abroad or honeymoon?

Making small yet simple choices like these can make all the difference when it comes to how your big day will turn out, and won't leave you reeling at the cost for years down the line. If you take a step back from your wedding plans you will quickly see where savings can be made, and as each couple is different, the cutbacks can be made in certain areas that apply to you. Don't waste your hard-earned money on things you don't need or want, or just to please someone else, be wise and think in advance how you want your big day to turn out.

It's all too easy to get carried away and break the bank by splurging excessively on your wedding day, but there are lots of tricks and tips to get the wedding of your dreams without skimping on style. If you, like so many other excited brides-to-be, are beginning to realise that the budget for the most special and memorable day of your life isn't going to stretch quite as far as you hoped, check out some of our cost-effective tips to see where savings can be made.

1) Invest your savings wisely

If you're putting aside some money for your wedding day, make sure to browse savings account options to maximise interest and benefits. This could boost your finances significantly and make the day that bit more special. That extra few pounds could amount to paying off one part of your wedding services entirely, whether it be the vicar's fee or an extra few bouquets of flowers.

2) Choose your dates carefully

When booking a venue, consider choosing less predictably desirable dates for your wedding day. The prices will be higher during popular months like June and August, and reducing competition will make the process of organising the venue easier and calmer. Why not brighten up the winter with a January wedding, or enjoy the beautiful colours of autumn by celebrating in October.

3) Negotiate

Don't be afraid to negotiate the prices you want. Events managers can easily ramp up the prices once they hear the word 'wedding'. Don't get swayed into spending more than you want to. This is your special day: set a budget and stick to it. If someone won't give you what you want for a reasonable price, take your business elsewhere.

4) Shop around for rings

The rings alone can easily set you back thousands of pounds so shop around; vintage second-hand rings are stunning and can add a real touch of class to the occasion, without breaking the bank. Visit antiques dealers, or consider adding the personal touch by using rings that have been passed down in the family.

5) Save on 'save the date' cards

Before finalising the official invites to the wedding day, many choose to send 'save the date' cards to their guests. This can be both a costly and a time-consuming process. Instead, opt for online invitations. Not only are these much more cost-effective than physical cards, but they are easier and have a higher chance of being received safely.

6) Spend less on the invitations

The cost of wedding invitations can often be overlooked, until you take into account the expense of envelopes, stationery and postage, let alone all the time you'll need to spend writing and addressing each individual invite. These days, nearly everyone is easier to reach via email. Creating your own unique invites online means you can easily contact everyone you want there for your special day for a fraction of the cost of more old-fashioned invitations.

7) Consider your couture

You don't need to spend thousands to look fabulous. In fact, second hand dresses are considerably cheaper than buying them new, and give you a bigger choice of classic and vintage styles. Look online for vintage clothing auctions, shop in charity shops or look in high street sales to find the perfect dress for your occasion, at a fraction of the normal price.

8) Borrow accessories...

Extra bits like necklaces, cufflinks or shoes can be your 'something borrowed'. Friends and relatives will likely be thrilled to help by lending you the accessories to complete your outfit, and you'll save money and time without missing the all-important details.

9) *DIY photography*

Photographers can be one of the most expensive parts of your wedding, so why not ask an amateur photographer to take on the role. Better still, consider buying a few disposable cameras and scattering them among the guests. Not only does this encourage people to get more involved in the event, but it's an easy way to get a variety of personal, unique shots of your special day from the perspective of your loved ones.

10) Get the guests to bring food

Catering can be one of the most expensive parts of your wedding day, but chances are there will be a few experienced bakers and cooks in the family who are eager to show off their skills. Why not ask people to bring a dish, or get that friend who's always baking to rustle up a delicious homemade cake for the event? Homemade food can be even better than bulk-bought catering and adds that personal touch to the day.

11) Use an amateur stylist

Your hair and makeup needs to be on point so that you can feel your best- we hear you ladies- but hiring a professional makeup artist can make what should be a fun pampering into yet another stressful expense. Know any budding makeup artists who are dying to practise their skills? Consider taking a chance on an amateur, or ask a glamorous friend to lend their skills to enhancing your natural beauty for the perfect bridal look.

12) Limit expensive booze

We all know how boozy weddings can be - and why not?! It's a celebration after all, but expensive alcohol can drain your wallet in a few hours. Consider limiting the free booze for guests to cheaper beverages like wine and beer; guests won't mind paying a little extra for any spirits or liqueurs consumed. Alternatively, have a BYOB policy: that way everyone drinks exactly what they want and your bank balance will thank you.

13) Choose simpler food

If you do choose to spend on catering, you don't need to fork out for an elaborate four course meal of seafood and steak for your guests (especially as many of them may be a little too sloshed to appreciate your efforts!) Avoid expensive ingredients like meat and dairy; instead consider a salad bar, simple finger food or a hog roast. An informal eating experience can also allow guests to mingle and make the whole event more fun and vibrant.

14) Stay in season

Save money and achieve a more authentic wedding experience by choosing fruits and flowers that are in season. Seasonal fruit and veg will taste much better, and flowers will have a more natural bloom if they have been grown naturally and not imported.

15) Don't go overboard on flowers

Flowers can easily be one of the most surprisingly costly parts of your wedding, and let's face it, they've only got 2 weeks of life at most after the event is over. Limit the flowers on tables - instead of massive bouquets, consider buying small plants which can double up as wedding favours. Fake flowers are becoming increasingly popular for weddings and mean you can avoid all the stress and expense of organising fresh flowers on the day.

16) A destination wedding?

Why not combine the honeymoon with the wedding itself? A destination wedding means guests can have a great time by joining you on holiday, and save you the cost of organising separate events. Married on a beach? Yes please!

17) Ask around for entertainers

An entertainer is an important part of your wedding reception, but the cost of hiring musicians or a DJ can be steep. Know any up-and-coming DJs or have a friend who's in a band? Chances are they'd love the opportunity for a gig, and having an entertainer who is a friend makes the event more fun and informal.

18) Repurpose decorations

Save money by reusing flowers and decorations from the ceremony in your reception. Guests are unlikely to notice or care, and you can feel less guilty about waste knowing that everything you've paid for is getting as much use out of it as possible.

19) Save on the reception venue

The reception party can end up being the most expensive part of your wedding; mainly because hiring a large enough venue to suit your taste can cost thousands. Your guests don't need an enormous country house to have a good time, so why not consider a more affordable, informal venue such as a local hotel or club hall where you can really let your hair down and celebrate, while holding on to those extra pounds in the process.

20) Get creative!

Finally, the expense of a wedding is largely down to paying for other people to provide services. Cut out the middle-man and cut down on costs by getting creatively involved. Make your wedding unique and personal by getting stuck in. You can do anything from making your own decorations, to growing your own flowers for corsages, or helping to set up the venue by hanging fairy lights and organising tables. This is your day. Show off your creative personality and make it a wedding to remember.

Thank you.

WE HOPE YOU FOUND SOME USEFUL TIPS TO USE
TO HELP MANAGE YOUR WEDDING BUDGET.

FOLLOW US MORE MORE GREAT ADVICE!

