



# 20 Tips And Ideas For Planning Your Own Wedding

A Wedding Planning Book Based On  
Questions Often Asked By Brides-To-Be



**1**

## **Where can I get wedding floral supplies and should I use fresh or silk flowers for my wedding?**

Let me answer the second part of your question first. Whether you use silk or fresh flowers **will be determined by:**

- 1) **Your budget,**
- 2) **Your personal preference** and
- 3) **If you will be doing your own wedding flowers** or not.

Fresh flowers are always beautiful but they do die and **sometimes sooner than expected which will be a disaster for your wedding day.** Believe my I've been there with my daughter's wedding and I will **not recommend** the stress of having to run around to find replacement flowers at the last minute!

Apart from the **unpredictability factor,** fresh flowers can be a problem for **people with allergies.**



On the other hand, silk flowers can be very beautiful as well and if you are careful about your selection, **most people won't even know the difference.**

Silk flowers will also allow you to make most or all of the arrangements and bouquets **beforehand** and it can even be **given as gifts** to special guests or be **used in your home** after the wedding.

It is a **very personal choice** and you can maybe even decide to do a mix of both fresh and silk flowers which may be a win-win situation for you.

This is the best source (in my opinion) for wedding floral supplies online:

<http://www.save-on-crafts.com/flordessupyo.html>

**2**

### **Should we have no favors at all or rather go for something practical like eco friendly or plantable wedding favors?**

*If your budget allows for wedding favors, then go for it.* It is a nice touch and it usually **makes the guests feel really special**.

Being a practical person, I would much rather **go for something useful** instead of just a **bauble that will cost you money** and will **probably be trashed** when the guests get home.

Eco friendly wedding favors is a **great way to go** since you can contribute in some way towards **going green**, you can give **something practical** and there is **quite a selection** available here:

<http://www.beau-coup.com/green-wedding-favors.htm>

OR find some plantable wedding favors here:

<http://www.botanicalpaperworks.com/>

**3**

### **We are getting married in the Bahamas and I'm looking for ideas for tropical wedding centerpieces.**

How exciting! It is very wise to go with the tropical theme for your centerpieces since you can mostly use materials that will be freely available in the Bahamas and **should cost less** since it **will not have to be shipped** from the States or somewhere else.

This link is very long, **but has some great pictures and ideas for tropical wedding centerpieces:**

[http://www.google.com/images?hl=&q=tropical+wedding+centerpiece&rlz=1B3GGGL\\_enUS324US325&um=1&ie=UTF-8&source=univ&ei=M\\_zS63bCZXOM6r9slAP&sa=X&oi=image\\_result\\_group&ct=title&resnum=1&ved=0CDEQsAQwAA](http://www.google.com/images?hl=&q=tropical+wedding+centerpiece&rlz=1B3GGGL_enUS324US325&um=1&ie=UTF-8&source=univ&ei=M_zS63bCZXOM6r9slAP&sa=X&oi=image_result_group&ct=title&resnum=1&ved=0CDEQsAQwAA)



**4**

Is it okay to have “homemade” wedding invites and where can I get diy wedding invitation kits?

**Yes.** Not only is it okay, if you do a good job it will **be totally unique** with your personal “stamp” on it. You can even get some input from the groom as well if he’s that way inclined.

There are so many **art and craft stores** around with tons of card making and/or scrapbooking **supplies available**. Most of these work just fine for **wedding (or any other) invitations** and you can even get embellishments to dress up your cards if you want to.

And on top of that you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you’ve done it yourself - **which is priceless**.

To make it even easier you can of course buy a kit or template to make your own invitations.

Here is a link that will take you to a diy wedding invitation kit or template:

<http://www.advantagebridal.com/white-laura-ashley-invitations-kit.html>



**5**

### **Is it a good idea to have a blended family wedding ceremony?**

This is a very **personal question** and the decision will be affected by **many different factors** like:

- A) The type of ceremony (religious or civil)
- B) The age of the children
- C) How many children will be involved?
- D) Will the new spouse be okay with this?

Children can **easily feel left** out if Mom or Dad are getting married again and **even more so** if the new spouse has children of his or her own as well.

**Including them** in decisions and/or in a “blended family wedding ceremony” will **certainly help** them feel **more excited about, than threatened** by the upcoming wedding.

**6**

### **Should we write our own or maybe get example wedding vows?**

**The choice is yours.** Either way is acceptable but you may feel there’s *something special you want to share* that will make the **moment even more memorable** for a long time to come.

It is a matter of adding a **very personal touch** instead of **just repeating** what has been said. I can distinctly remember a handful of very touching wedding ceremonies and all of them took the time to write their own vows.

There are people available who are willing to **share their knowledge** for occasions just like this and who even combined different sets of **vows to mix and match**.

You can find some samples vows here:

<http://weddings.about.com/cs/bridesandgrooms/a/vowwording.htm>

**7**

### **Can I make my own wedding cake and where can I Get unusual cake designs and/or cake decorating patterns?**

**Yes you can** – especially if you are a hands-on person. You don’t really even have to be creative since there is **so much material available** to choose from and to tell you **step-by-step how to bake and decorate**.



The only advice I will give you is to **do a trial-run or even several** before the wedding. Make sure you've got the whole process down pat and **leave nothing to chance**.

Take things like the weather into consideration since it will make a difference and certainly allow yourself enough time to bake and finish the cake before the wedding – **preferably at least a day or two before if possible**.

This is a good place for unusual cake designs:

<http://weddings.theknot.com/Real-Weddings/Cake/results.aspx?type=3&wedding+details=Cake&Sort=Kn otPicks&>

Go here for cake decorating patterns:

[http://cake-decorating.lovetoknow.com/Cake\\_Decorating\\_Patterns](http://cake-decorating.lovetoknow.com/Cake_Decorating_Patterns)

**8**

## **Do wedding cake toppers have to be a bride and groom or can we use something else?**

**Feel free to use whatever you like.** It is **not written in stone** that you have to have a traditional bride and groom wedding cake topper.

There are some great toppers available that are **either very elegant, cute or modern** and you can even think of doing a **simple monogram topper** or use **some flowers and no topper at all**.

This is a great source for any style wedding cake toppers:

<http://www.caketoppers.com/>



**9**

### **Is it possible to make your own hand tied bridal bouquet?**

**It may be a bit tricky but it can be done** – especially if the bouquet is made of silk flowers.

This will mean that you can **make your own bridal bouquet before hand** and store it safely until the wedding **or** if you make the **right selection of flowers that will last well**, you can make a hand tied bouquet the day before the wedding and keep it **in a cool place** with the stems in water.

Apart from knowing what you're doing, it will certainly **take careful planning and testing**. You will also need a time schedule to keep religiously.

You can get **books with instructions** on how to make your own hand tied bouquet which will help you a lot.



**10**

We would like to have a reception but have limited funds. Are backyard wedding receptions acceptable?

**Yes** it will be just fine. As a matter of fact, I've been to several backyard wedding receptions that were **much more intimate** and more enjoyable than big, fancy weddings with hundreds and hundreds of guests.

If you feel like sharing your special day with only intimate friends and family, you do what feels good to you. It is after all your day and you should enjoy it. If you are going to feel overwhelmed by and not comfortable in a large crowd, don't do it. And besides...it will cost much less.

**11**

How do I know if a guy is THE one - how do you calculate your love compatibility?

Do your homework. Read on this subject as much as you can. There are several books available written by experts in the field to guide you and that asks questions that should give you a clear indication if you're on the right track. **Make sure NOW.**

You can get free guidelines and questionnaires that will help you calculate your love compatibility before the big day and besides that .....you should have butterflies in your tummy!

**12**

## Should I use a wedding planner or can I just buy a wedding planning ebook?

The choice is yours but it will be determined to a large extent by **your budget**. If you have the money and don't need all the stress – go for it but do research before hiring just any wedding planner or go on referral.

If a wedding planner is not in the budget you can certainly do it yourself – even if you are not a creative person. Surely there's some friend or family member you can ask to help and apart from that, you can find a great wedding planning ebook or other material in magazines to get ideas and even instructions on how-to-“anything”.

**13**

## Should I really have a Bridal checklist and where can I find one?

Most definitely yes! The most important part about planning a wedding is to be organized and to have a checklist (which is available in many books and magazines)

If you stick to your list, allow enough time for every detail and keep to a day planner schedule, you'll be fine. Use what the experts use in the form of a list they provide. They know what to look for and what is sometimes forgotten in all the details.

This has been done thousands of times before and you CAN make your wedding a great success and enjoyable by simply following a proven plan.

You can find a FREE bridal checklist here:

<http://www.americanbridal.com/bridchec.html>

**14**

**What style dress should I choose? I see beautiful wedding dresses with cap sleeves and also a lot of short length wedding dresses.**

It helps to **know what you like** and another important point is **your body type**. What type of dress makes you look good, **do you want to hide your arms or show off your great legs?**

You can find a plan that this very well known wedding planner uses to help her brides decide which dress to choose here:

<http://www.aa-wp.com/wedding-planning/buy-your-gown-like-a-pro/info/>



**15**

**Should we spend so much money on a big wedding that we'll end up in debt and what can help us cutting wedding costs?**

The answer is **certainly not**. Going into debt for the pleasure of a few hours (**how special it may be**) is simply not worth it. This way you will **start your married life with added strain** which you don't need.

If you really want a big, beautiful wedding with all the bells and whistles, stay engaged longer and **save enough money** to pay for such a wedding or maybe you have a rich father who can at least help to pay for some expenses but **DON'T go into debt**.

Here's a great post with tips on how to be cutting wedding costs:

<http://www.pennywise-guides.com/100-ways-to-cut-wedding-costs>

**16**

**Should we have wedding readings from literature during the ceremony and if yes, where can I find it?**

It is always a nice touch to have someone close to you or the groom read something that is special to you both and maybe *reminds you of a very special time or incident*.

The biggest problem is that there is just so much to choose from! **You can find some great ideas for wedding readings from literature here:**

<http://weddings.about.com/od/yourweddingceremony/a/ReadingsLibrary.htm>

**17**

**Are Bridal Shower games and activities a good idea and where can I find Bridal Shower recipe cards?**

Any shower can sometimes be a **bit uncomfortable** in the beginning especially if many of the guests don't know each other. Therefore having bridal shower games and activities will **serve as an ice breaker** and usually make everybody laugh or at least communicate.

It can be quite enjoyable but don't overdo it – remember it is after all a shower for the bride! **Here's a link to some fun FREE ideas:**

[http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/38470/10\\_fun\\_to\\_do\\_bridal\\_shower\\_activities.html?singlepage=true&cat=23](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/38470/10_fun_to_do_bridal_shower_activities.html?singlepage=true&cat=23)

You will see that the recipe card exchange is also mentioned in the abovementioned list. **You can find recipe cards here:**

<http://www.itzuniuelyours.com/servlet/the-Recipe-Cards-dsh-Bridal-Showers/Categories>

**18**

### Should we have a reception and must you have a wedding reception planning checklist?

This can be a tough one. ***It is an undeniable fact that receptions are the biggest money guzzler in any wedding.***

Think about renting a venue, linens, china, silverware and glasses to start with. Then you have the wedding favors, the food and music, the liquor and/or other drinks – *it sure adds up in a hurry.*

**BUT**.....most people love a good party especially when everything is free right? And if there's good music and enough to drink even better!

Again it will come down to the **kind of people** the couple is and if you want to spend that amount of money on a party or rather use it towards **something more practical** like a down payment on a house or to buy furniture.

Having said that, it sometimes feels like something is missing when there's no reception at all – like okay, we're married, you can go home now!

I guess at the end of the day **each couple will have to decide** how practical they want to be or how much they would like to celebrate their union and share it with friends and family.

And yes it is **vital** that you have a **wedding reception planning checklist!**  
You can find one here:

<http://www.a-wedding-reception.com/a-wedding-reception-checklist.html>

**19**

**Can we have a nice, memorable wedding on a shoestring or an average wedding budget?**

**Absolutely yes!** The only difference is that you will **think twice** about making decisions, be **organized and do your homework**. (Like knowing prices of different items to compare)

It can REALLY be overwhelming to plan a wedding if you don't know what you're doing but even then, **you're not alone**. And don't even try to go it alone – you WILL get burned, especially if you have an average wedding budget.

There are many resources available from people who are experts in this field. Use it – even if you have to make a small investment now to gain access to what they know. **At the end of the day it will surely save you a lot of money** and it will allow you to have that memorable wedding on a shoestring!

**20**

**Is engagement rings cost justifiable?**

An engagement ring is a **symbol of your promise** to get married and you will display it proudly to the world. *But unfortunately it has become a status symbol like so many other things. (“Things” is the keyword here.)*

**Giving you a big rock doesn't mean he loves you more, it just means he can either afford it or he went into debt to buy it.**

*Again it boils down to principals and practicality.* It will be your choice if you would rather pay \$10 000 towards engagement rings cost **instead of** either **investing** the money, *buying something for your home* or even use it for a **special honeymoon** that you can enjoy together and share the memories for a long time to come.

Being a very practical (but also romantic) person, I feel a simple ring that doesn't cost an arm and a leg **will give the same message** as the \$10 000 big rock.

Maybe the rock is important to you, and that's okay. **Just don't pressurize your significant other if he cannot afford it.**





- I am a middle-aged wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister and friend who have been happily married for **32 years (yes, it does still happen!)** We were blessed with 2 daughters both in their twenties, one granddaughter of 3 and another grandbaby on the way (yeah!) We live in Kansas City Missouri USA.
- I have been planning large functions of up to 350 people as well as weddings for many years. I'm a hands-on person who likes to help people save money where I can *without sacrificing style or quality*. **I simply believe that there is a less expensive way to do things.**
- Apart from having done wedding planning for many years, I'm also an **Interior Designer** and **professional Faux finishing artist**.
- I try to answer questions future brides may have and **supply as many free resources as possible.**
- I have been nominated as a member of **Who's Who** of Interior Designers and Architects and have been accepted as an **honorary member**.

**I hope you will find answers to your questions and will use the free resources available on my site at:**

**<http://www.ideasforweddingplanning.com/>**



**“Leave it to Ina to create a fairy tail wedding with no worries or stress regarding the planning. Her warm and patient personality made it easy for me to hand over the reigns and just enjoy the entire experience. Ina’s impeccable taste and attention to detail made for an unforgettable wedding day!! We were left with our budget intact and a wedding day to be remembered for a lifetime. Looking back now, I can only say ‘Thank you from the bottom of my heart’.”**

**Une Hardee**

