

BUDGET AND EXPENSES

SET A BUDGET Traditional rules about who pays for which expenses have fallen away as people wait until later in life to marry. Sit down with all parents and figure out exactly what, or how much, each parent is paying for, or if you are footing the bill yourself. Then determine a realistic budget for your wedding expenses.

DON'T GO INTO DEBT Most couples do have one common wish regarding wedding budgets - they do not want to go into debt. There are many options available for weddings, choose ones that work financially for you. Love is all you need!

LIST YOUR PRIORITIES Develop a list of priorities. Many topics need to be discussed including the type of ceremony, number of guests, kind of food, refreshments, atmosphere, and entertainment for your reception. Don't forget about your honeymoon. Assign approximate prices and how important these things are to you. Do your research when assigning prices to make realistic decisions on what you can and cannot afford.

REDUCE EXPENSES Have your wedding on a day other than Saturday. Friday and Sunday weddings are gaining in popularity. Many of the popular reception facilities and services are booked up to a year in advance on Saturdays, however, most are still available on Fridays or Sundays. Another option is to ask about off-season rates for the colder months, which tend to be less popular. Use technology to save by sending digital wedding announcements via email or social media.

RECORD YOUR EXPENSES Utilize our budget worksheet to keep your finances on track. As prices are quoted, record them on the worksheet, along with commitment details. Stick to your priorities when allocating your budget.

Traditional Financial Costs

BRIDE OR BRIDE'S FAMILY

- Engagement Party
- Wedding Consultant
- Stationery and Postage
- The Groom's Wedding Ring
- The Groom's Wedding Gift
- Gifts for Bridesmaids
- The Bride's Wedding Day Attire
- Bridesmaids' Bouquets
- The Bridal Luncheon
- Photography
- Videography
- Ceremony Fees
- Ceremony Flowers, & Music
- Reception
- DJ or Band
- Floral Décor
- Rental Décor
- The Wedding Cake
- Transportation Costs

THE GROOM'S FAMILY

- Wedding Gift for the Newlyweds
- Rehearsal Dinner

THE GROOM

- Gifts for the Groomsmen
- The Bride's Wedding Gift
- The Bride's Wedding Ring
- The Bridal Bouquet
- Boutonnieres
- Mothers' and Grandmothers' Corsages
- Wedding Day Attire
- Marriage License
- Honeymoon
- Officiate's Fee

THE ATTENDANTS

- Bachelor/Bachelorette Party
- Travel Expenses and Lodging
- Wedding Attire
- Wedding Gift for the Couple
- Parties for the Bridal Couple