

# TOP TIPS FROM PLANNING PROFESSIONALS

## SET A REALISTIC BUDGET

Setting a budget for your wedding can be one of the toughest stages in planning. Not everyone can afford all the details of a dream wedding and budgeting often means having to choose between what you 'must have' and what you 'really want'. The best way to budget is to set out all of your expenses up front to get an idea of your total budget, this way you will know what you can afford and it will make the planning process that much smoother.

## PLAN TOGETHER

Keeping both of you involved ensures that personal touches from both sides can be incorporated into your wedding...and you will both enjoy the day that much more knowing that it was your teamwork that pulled it all off!

## PICK THE LOCATION...BUY THE DRESS

Many brides have a 'dream dress' that you may have been dreaming of for years. Be patient though - our advice is to wait until you choose where you want to have your wedding before you buy your dress. You may find that choosing your location brings a whole new 'dream dress' to mind!

## CREATE A WEDDING WEBSITE

There is no better way to keep your guests informed than by having a website with all your up to date information. Creating a wedding website has never been easier and it is often free! These sites allow you to track RSVP's, share engagement stories and pictures, post important wedding information and they can even link through to your gift registry.

## CONSIDER THE KIDS

It is often a tough decision when deciding how to handle the beloved children on your guest list. It is lovely to have them involved in the day but often it can be distracting during particular points in the evening. Many couples are now considering child-friendly evening activities that are held close-by including supervised pizza parties, movie nights and even sleepovers.

## GET A GOOD NIGHT SLEEP

You will be full of excitement and anticipation the evening before your big day, but it is important to try to get a good night's rest! Feeling well rested will allow you to relax and truly enjoy your big day and all of the hard work you have put into making it happen!

## PICK YOUR PICTURES

You will be looking at these pictures for years to come, so it is important to have a list of 'must have' pictures to share with your photographer before the wedding day. You may also want to consider putting one person (friend/family member or your coordinator) in charge of making sure that these pictures are taken and that everyone is where they need to be/when they need to be there on your big day!

## TRIED & TESTED - MAKEUP & HAIR

This will be one of the most photographed days of your life, not exactly a time to test out a new lipstick colour or hair do! Make sure that you use the weeks leading up to your wedding to try out a few different makeup style and hairdo's – this will ensure that you are picture perfect while they keep snapping away!

## WEDDING DAY EMERGENCY KIT

No minor emergency will cause you chaos with this pack on hand. Fill this with all the necessary supplies (bandaids, hair spray, touch up makeup, etc.) and pick one of your bridesmaids or family members to put in charge of making sure it is accessible throughout the evening – we're sure you will need at least one thing!

## SWITCH YOUR SHOES

This is definitely an event where you will want to dance the night away! And no reason to do so uncomfortably...so after walking down the aisle feel free to switch into whatever shoes you please! This should help keep you on the dance floor all evening and your feet feeling fabulous!