

BUDGET CREATION

the complete guide to creating your wedding budget





WELCOME

Planning a wedding is an exciting time, but it can also be overwhelming, especially when it comes to budgeting. Creating a wedding budget is a crucial first step in the planning process, ensuring that you stay on track financially while still having the wedding of your dreams. In this comprehensive guide, we will walk you through everything you need to know about creating a wedding budget that works for you.

We will address assessing your finances, prioritizing expenses, setting a realistic budget, tracking spending, finding ways to save, transparency with vendors, and focusing on what truly matters.

GETTING STARTED



ASSESS YOUR FINANCES

Before diving into the specifics of your wedding budget, take a step back and assess your current financial situation. Consider your income, savings, and any financial contributions from family members. Understanding your financial resources will help you set a realistic budget for your wedding.



PRIORITIZE YOUR EXPENSES

Once you have a clear picture of your finances, it's time to prioritize your wedding expenses. Sit down with your partner and make a list of the elements that are most important to you both. Whether it's the venue, catering, or photography, rank your priorities to allocate your budget accordingly.



SET A REALISTIC BUDGET

Based on your financial assessment and priorities, set a realistic budget for your wedding. Consider all potential costs, including the venue, catering, attire, decorations, entertainment, and any additional expenses. Be sure to include a buffer for unexpected costs that may arise.

HELPFUL TIPS

TRACK YOUR SPENDING

As you start planning and booking vendors, it's essential to track your spending to ensure you stay within your budget. Consider using a spreadsheet or budgeting app to monitor expenses and make adjustments as needed. Regularly reviewing your budget will help you make informed decisions throughout the planning process.

BE TRANSPARENT

Don't be afraid to be honest with vendors to ensure everyone is on the same page. Some vendors are willing to work within your budget, offer discounts or other solutions for off-peak dates when they know your budget. Be open and honest about your financial constraints, and you may be surprised at the savings you can achieve.

FIND WAYS TO SAVE

There are plenty of ways to save money on your wedding without sacrificing your vision. Consider options like DIY decorations, opting for a buffet-style dinner instead of a plated meal, or choosing a non-traditional venue. Be creative and think outside the box to cut costs while still creating a memorable experience.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

While creating a wedding budget is essential, it's also important to remember the reason you're getting married in the first place. Focus on the love and commitment you share with your partner, rather than getting caught up in the financial aspects of the wedding. Keep perspective and enjoy the planning process together.





PERCENTAGES

These are guideline percentages per category. We tend to lean heavily into design so you can always make adjustments if a live band is more important to you than flowers.

VENUE	
ceremony & reception	13%
CATERER	
including food, bar, and beverage	25%
WEDDING PLANNER	
including planning package and staff	12%
RENTALS & DECOR	
tables, chairs, tabletop, linens, and candles	8%
FLORALS	
floral design (may also include candles)	10%

PERCENTAGES

CONTINUED...

PHOTOGRAPHER	
not including extras, i.e. engagement photos	7%
VIDEOGRAPHER	
not including extras, i.e. adventure sessions	5%
CAKE & DESSERT	
display, cutting cake, and/or mini desserts	2%
COUPLE'S FASHION	
dresses, suits, shoes, and accessories	3%
BEAUTY	
hair, makeup, mani, and pedi	2%
STATIONARY	
invitation suite, signage, and day-of paper	6%
OFFICIANT	
hired professional or donation to church	1%
ENTERTAINMENT	
DJ, strings, and/or live band	3%
ACCOMODATIONS	
couple's overnight accomodations	1%
TRANSPORTAION	
wedding party and guest transportation	2%





THANK YOU

Creating a wedding budget may seem daunting, but with careful planning and consideration, you can achieve the wedding of your dreams within your financial means. We want to thank you for stopping by and invite you to reach out to us with any questions! Feel free to email us at hello@lauraelizabethweddings.com.