

Simple

Weddings & More

Where to Save, Where to Splurge

Save your \$\$

1. Hair and makeup - you want to look like yourself. You don't want your partner to see you come down the aisle and think, "Who is that?" UNLESS you want your hair styled a certain way and you are unable to do it yourself.
2. Expensive jewelry - unless it's a gift from someone, if you buy expensive jewelry, either make sure you'll wear it again with your everyday outfits or stick to costume jewelry. No one will know the difference.
3. Offering more than 2 meal options - keep it simple!
4. If you are serving alcohol, stick to the top 5 hard liquors. You don't need to stock a full bar! Your guests will drink whatever is there. And if your guests don't normally drink wine or very few do, don't offer it!
5. The dress - if you know a good seamstress, look on the clearance rack. A good seamstress can work miracles. I have a friend who found a dress for \$125 and their seamstress cut out 4' of fabric from the skirt and made it into an A-line from a hoop skirt.
6. Ceremony programs - have a large poster printed up and framed that lists the wedding party. That is what most people want to know anyway!
7. The bachelor/bachelorette party - do you really need a trip to Vegas? Consider the cost burden it puts on your wedding party.
8. Limo after the ceremony to the reception - this is usually a very short ride. Your parent's SUV will get you there just fine.
9. Candles for tables and decor - they don't last and oftentimes, you forget to light them or they get blown out accidentally. Opt for simple greens.
10. Guest favors - no one needs another can koozie.

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11. Save the Date cards - If you know of other engaged couples that might also be planning a wedding around the same time, talk with them and coordinate if it's important to you they have the option to attend your wedding.

Splurge

1. The dress. Ok, I know I had it on the list above too. But if you need to push the budget a little bit for the dress you have absolutely fallen in love with, it's ok. If you don't, you'll always be thinking about it on your wedding day.
2. The photographer. You can't retake the pictures so it's important you find someone you can trust and who will capture your day. (I have 2 personal horror stories about this one!)
3. Entertainment. The right DJ or live band can make your reception memorable. The wrong one will leave you alone on the dance floor by 9:00!
4. Food - while I think the number of offerings should be limited, the ones you do decide on should be delicious. Don't forget to offer options for guests with food sensitivities.
5. This is not so much a splurge with money but more a splurge with your time on Thank You notes. And be sure to send them. I'm still waiting for one from my cousin from at least 30 years ago. Using the excuse of "we just had so many people at the wedding" doesn't fly. You invited them. They showed up. They brought a gift. They deserve a thank you.