

WEDDING PLANNING TIPS



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01

Guest numbers Vs venue size

Even if you have your heart set on a particular venue, be sure to get an idea of the number of guests you're having BEFORE paying the deposit. The last thing you want is your dream venue not being able to fit all of your guests comfortably.

02

Rethink the guest list

The longer you sit there planning your guest list, the longer it grows. Start by writing out your list, then revise it. Ensure your closest family and friends are at the top of the list. If you're over the number of people you planned for, do a cull starting from the bottom of the list, then revise it again.

How do you prioritise your list? Well, start with your "must haves" – immediate family, bridal party and best friends. Follow on with aunts, uncles, cousins and close friends you couldn't possibly leave out. Round the list out by adding friends of your parents, neighbours, work colleagues, your butcher and so on.

03

What about the kids

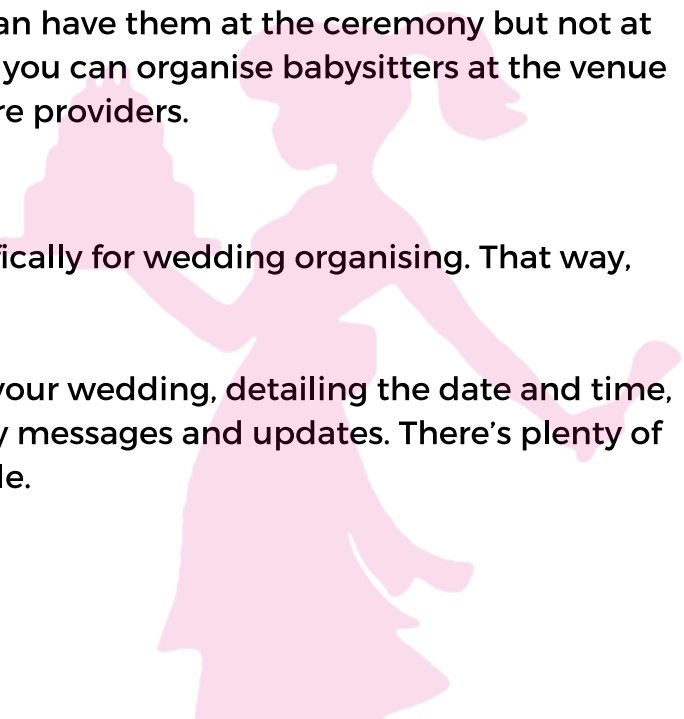
Remember, it's your day so it's your choice. You can have children included, you can make it a "grown up's only" affair, you can choose to have children of immediate family only or you can have them at the ceremony but not at the reception. To be extra helpful, you can organise babysitters at the venue or provide details of local child care providers.

04

Email address and website

Create a new email address specifically for wedding organising. That way, everything is all in the one place.

You can also create a website for your wedding, detailing the date and time, menu, location, directions and any messages and updates. There's plenty of free website creating sites available.



05

Keep it together

Buy a folder. Buy some dividers. Sort your folder out into sections and keep EVERYTHING to do with the wedding in this folder. Also, if you're not creating a dedicated email address, create a folder in your email account and another folder on your computer to save everything to.

06

Prioritise the bits

Write a list of everything you're going to need from the invites to the dress and detail which are the most important. For example, if you're wanting an expensive photographer, then perhaps spend a little less on invites.

07

Budget

Set one and stick to it. You want your day to be amazing. You don't want to be spending the first few years of marriage eating from a can while living in a tent. When creating your wedding budget, always keep an emergency stash for surprise items.

08

Get in early

Venues, photographers, cakes – these are always booked well in advance so if you have your heart set on particular places and vendors, you'll need to get in quick.

09

Take your time

It's your wedding day. Don't rush the planning. Take your time with it all to ensure the planning is as stress free as possible.

10

Plan for you

The day is not about impressing the guests. It's an expression of you both, your lives together and sharing that piece of you with them. Don't aim for perfection. Aim for what is perfect for you. You can never please everyone but after all, your guests are there for you. Remember what the day is about, you, and a celebration of your life and love and future together.

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Vendors

Hire vendors that respect your vision. It is YOUR day after all. Check with your favourite wedding vendors to see if they have recommendations for other vendors to ensure you're getting the best.

12

Discounts

It never hurts to ask vendors if they offer any discounts. Keep in mind there are just some things you cannot get done on the cheap, like the cake. Some vendors may have special offers or packages and you sometimes you won't know unless you ask.

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Staffing

Clarify with the venue that they will appropriately staff the event for the number of people attending.

14

Bathrooms

There's nothing worse than queues. Check there will be adequate bathroom facilities and that the venue will have staff regularly checking them for cleaning needs or replenishing soap, toilet paper and hand towels.

15

Accommodation

If holding your wedding at a hotel (or near one), most hotels will allow you to reserve a block of rooms at a discounted rate. Be sure to discuss the cancellation policy with them so you are not held liable for any rooms not filled. Find out how far in advance the hotel requires the unused rooms to be released in order to sell them, without any penalty to you.

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Local area events

Investigate any local area events happening on your preferred wedding dates to ensure there will be no issues with accommodation, traffic or added costs.

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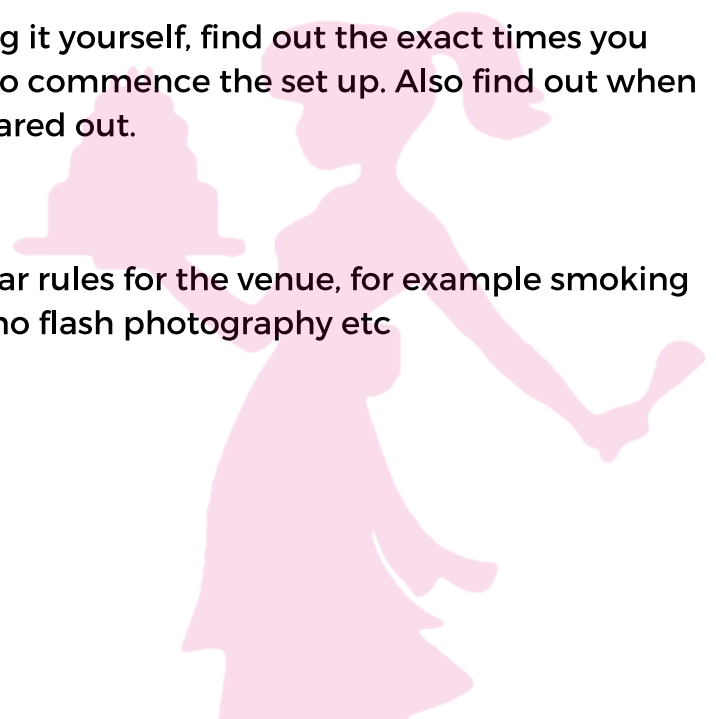
The set up

If you're hiring a venue and doing it yourself, find out the exact times you are able to access the property to commence the set up. Also find out when you need to have everything cleared out.

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Rules

Find out if there are any particular rules for the venue, for example smoking areas, enclosed shoes required, no flash photography etc



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Mother nature

Check out the typical weather for that time of year at that venue. For example, is it too hot, too cold, humid, loads of bugs, windy, wet etc, and plan accordingly. If it's hot, have bottles of water available. If it's wet, have umbrellas. If it's cold, have blankets. If there's bugs have the area sprayed beforehand or have little roll on repellents available.

20

The backup

Always, always, always have back up plans in place. There's nothing worse than something going wrong on the day (or before) and having no other options. Create your "just in case" list for things like weather, DJ not showing up, people who don't like dessert etc.

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Directions

Provide guests with very clear directions for the venue. Give them with the website address of the venue, the physical address, written directions, a link to a map or the address of your pretty new wedding website!

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Contacts

In your amazingly organised wedding folder, be sure to include a contact list - one big list of every emergency contact, vendor, wedding party member etc. Keep a copy in your folder, give a copy your parents, members of your bridal party and the venue organisers. Note on each list who has a copy so if someone loses theirs, they know who to go to.

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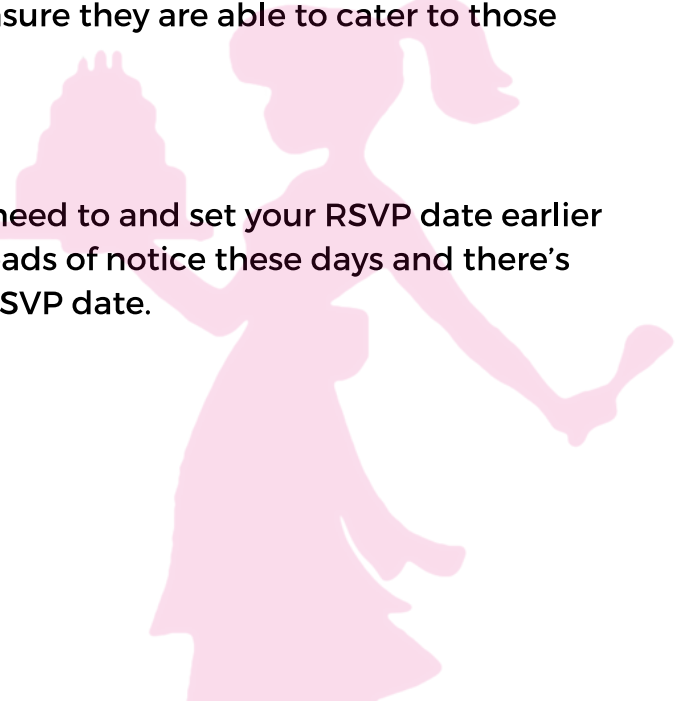
Food

There are so many allergies and intolerances and nobody wants a guest turning spotty and puffy after being fed something they weren't supposed eat. Be sure to check out who has major allergies when planning the menu and checking with the venue to ensure they are able to cater to those allergies.

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Dates

Send your invites earlier than you need to and set your RSVP date earlier than it needs to be. People need loads of notice these days and there's always someone who misses the RSVP date.



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Dress shopping

Don't take loads of people dress shopping. Too many opinions. Too much confusion. Also, don't rule anything out. You may have your heart set on a particular look only to try it on and hate it. Keep an open mind and try everything on, even if you think it won't suit you because chances are, it just might be the perfect one!

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The cake

Considered by some as the centrepiece, the wedding cake is uber important. There's a few things to remember when sourcing your cake creator:

Go to a cake tasting. Most cake makers offer a tasting session (**ours are FREE**) during which you're able to sample the different flavours for yourself.

Bring photos of the types of cakes, colours, themes and designs you like to help with the designing process.

Be clear about your budget and be realistic about the cake. A good cake maker will be able to work with your budget, however, they also need you to be realistic. If you have a smaller budget, chances are you won't get your 9 tier, 15 flavour cake coated in real gold and gemstones.

01

Never say "it's just a cake" when receiving your quote as you're not simply paying for a cake. What you're paying for is a hand made creation that takes, time, experience, quality ingredients, crafted decorations and meticulous detail.

Watch out for vendors that dramatically increase the prices as soon you mention the word "wedding". Cakeit4U use the same quoting process for all cakes we create.

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DIY

Many brides become Pinterest obsessed and find a million and one things they could do themselves. Before they know it, they've decided to create a list of things a mile long which only adds to the stress.

If there's things you want made, delegate. Sure, DIY saves you money, but not your sanity. Put a call out on your social media pages to see if there is anyone you know who actually makes any of the things you're after. Ask if anyone in the bridal party is crafty, or your mum or the in laws!

Plan a day for it and get all your friends and family over for a fun day of making wedding bits!

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The speeches

Be sure to give any important information to those giving speeches early. For example, any jokes, colourful language or touchy subjects that you and they may find funny could offend someone else. Nothing more awkward than hearing the sound of crickets (or upset tears) during the speeches!

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The friend

Nominate a close friend you trust to be able to tell you to pull your head in when you're getting stressed, overwhelmed or a little Bridezilla.

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Guest photos

Picture it. You're standing there with the love of your life on best day of your life so far. You begin to notice half the audience standing up, taking photos, blocking the view of those behind them and worse, blocking the view for the photographer you've paid a lot of money for.

- Ask guests to refrain from taking any photos of the ceremony on their phones. It's not a nice sight seeing people standing up all over the place in the middle of your ceremony.
- Also ask them to not post to social media before you do. It's your day and you should be the one to share sneak peaks first.
- Another idea is to create a hashtag and ask everyone to use you it so your photos are all together across social media.



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Photography

The photos are pretty much the only thing from your big day that you get to keep forever. They need to be good.

- Get the contract explained in detail
- Ask how long they take to edit
- Will they have an assistant
- Ask if they've shot at your venue before
- Check out their portfolio and references
- Google search – anyone can write rave reviews on their own site but a Google search may divulge some much needed info
- Don't be afraid to speak up. Share your vision and creative ideas with them. Ask for their tips and input into lighting and best times of day for photos at your venue
- Investigate the type of photos you like. Do you prefer traditional wedding photos, whimsical, posed or totally natural and unplanned. Do you like the vintage look, loads of light, a darker theme?
- Create a shot list. Who must be photographed, group shots you need, family members, wedding items i.e. cake/venue/dress/accessories/decorations etc., getting ready shots and the shot of the groom as the bride walks down the aisle.
- Make sure they're nice humans. Seriously. It's the happiest day of your life, nobody needs a grumpy bum.
- PS. Black and white dance floor photos won't show the full extent of sweaty, drunken guests

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Tips for the day

- Be present. The day will fly by so take regular moments to
- Organise a little time out for you and your new husband/wife, escape the madness and soak it in in a quiet space together
- EAT SOMETHING
- Even if you've rehearsed your vows in front of the mirror for the last 6 months, the emotions of the day may make your brain fuzzy. Have a member of the bridal party hold onto a written copy just in case.
- Give your phone to someone in the bridal party. They can deal with whatever calls come in so you don't stress out about it
- Emergency kit – needle and thread, bandaids, hairspray, touch up makeup, breath spray/mints, safety pins, hair ties/pins etc
- Happy feet – bring a pair of comfy shoes for dancing the night away. Also, a cute idea is to supply guests with comfy shoes ie. Thongs!
- Wear a button up shirt when you're getting hair and makeup done