

# 14 Ways to Cut Your Wedding Budget

Weddings can be expensive! The average wedding now tops over \$27,000. In New York City, the average is over \$65,000. ***The wedding industry brings in over \$30 billion!***

We all realize that weddings are big events. ***Anything that involves renting a large space, food, drinks, flowers, and receiving gifts is going to be expensive.*** But there are many ways to reduce the costs.

## Consider these strategies to reduce your wedding budget:

*Focus on fun rather than perfection. Fun is pretty inexpensive. Perfection costs a fortune. Think about a wedding that will be affordable and enjoyable for both you and your guests.*

*Be mindful of the time of year. The summer is the most expensive time of the year for a wedding. Any other time of the year can be 20-30% less expensive. Certain flowers are also cheaper or more expensive at certain times of the year.*

*Be Careful at "wedding shops." You can find many of the same items online or at regular department stores. Wedding shops are always more expensive.*

*Dress down while shopping. Many florists have admitted quoting a price based upon the car and the clothing of the shopper. Dress neatly, but not expensively.*

*Skip engraved invitations. You can save up to \$500 by having your invitations thermo-graphed. They'll look just as good.*

*Think about a meal other than dinner. Having lunch or brunch at your wedding can save 30% on your reception. You can save even more by having an afternoon wedding with just cake and some hors d'oeuvres.*

*Check out the park or public gardens.*  
Many cities and towns rent out buildings and parks at a low rate, and public gardens can also be reserved for your special day.

*Consider getting your transportation from a funeral home.*  
Funeral homes frequently have limousines sitting idle. You might be able to call them and get a great deal.

*Pass on the band.*  
Hiring a D.J. is much less expensive than a band. Also consider local high schools for quartets and ensembles.

*Negotiate Prices to Fit Your Budget.*  
When it comes to more expensive items, things are rarely set in stone.  
*Firm negotiating is a great way to save money on a wedding.*

*Get it in writing.*  
If the other party isn't willing to put it in writing, run the other way.

*Rent / Consign your dress.*  
What happens to wedding dresses after the big day? They sit in a box in the closet until your child tosses it out in 40+ years.

*Keep the photos under control.*  
Photographers can be very expensive. Instead of hiring the same one for the wedding and reception, consider just hiring them for a shorter period of time.

*Ask questions.*  
Always ask about hidden costs. Maybe the venue will charge you extra tax and add on a high rate of gratuity. *Bring a list of questions and ensure that the vendors are willing to answer every one of them.*

Keep these tips in mind when planning your wedding. You can have a super fun wedding, without breaking the bank.