

Wedding Budget

Budget Planning

In the post-modern era, the question of who pays for a wedding has as many answers as locations where you can get married. Traditionally, the bride's family assumed responsibility for the majority of the wedding expenses with the groom's family paying for specific items. Today, most couples enter marriage after starting careers and both plan, and to some degree, pay for their own weddings. Often the bride and groom accept help from either or both sets of parents.

Budget Details

When planning your budget, be realistic! Divide your planning by those services definitely needed and those wanted if budget allows. Once you've determined what you need and what you want, it's time to start shopping. Try calling various vendors to see what their fees are. Keep accurate records so that you can establish your budget. When asking about costs, ask about low-end, high-end and average prices. Keep in mind that some vendors will not discuss fees over the phone; they may send you information or may not discuss monetary issues in any way but in person. A time effective way of shopping for service providers is to attend a bridal show or hire a bridal consultant. A professional bridal consultant will be able to tell you quickly what the going prices are for services in your area.

Once you have an idea of the price range of your needs, you will then know if your budget will accommodate any of your additional wants. Don't forget the details in each category. For example, the wedding dress is only one part of your expense. Remember to add in the cost of alterations and all of the accessories (undergarments, hosiery, shoes, etc.).

Using the Checklist

Below is a checklist of expenses typically covered by the bride/family, the groom/family, and various attendants. If you are splitting costs differently, use the space on the left to help indicate who's paying for what. For expenses being covered by the bride and/or her family, place a "B" on the line on the left; for expenses covered by the groom and/or his family, place a "G" there.

Once you have made these decisions, write down estimates and actual costs in the spaces provided on the right side of the form. This detailed list will give you an overview of your wedding budget as you progress. (Note: You may want to photocopy these pages for "guesstimates," and fill in the estimate columns below as you arrive at budget figures you are happy with.)

Bride and/or Her Family

Wedding Invitations and Stationery

	Estimate #1	Estimate #2	Estimate #3	Actual
___ Invitations	_____	_____	_____	_____
___ Envelopes-Return	_____	_____	_____	_____
___ Envelopes-Inner	_____	_____	_____	_____
___ Reception Cards	_____	_____	_____	_____
___ RSVP Cards	_____	_____	_____	_____
___ Announcements	_____	_____	_____	_____
___ Thank You Notes	_____	_____	_____	_____
___ Ceremony Programs	_____	_____	_____	_____
___ At Home Cards	_____	_____	_____	_____
___ Calligraphy	_____	_____	_____	_____
___ Napkins	_____	_____	_____	_____
___ Matches	_____	_____	_____	_____
___ Cake Boxes	_____	_____	_____	_____
___ Place Cards	_____	_____	_____	_____
___ Guest Book/Pen	_____	_____	_____	_____
___ Postage	_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>Totals This Page</i>	_____	_____	_____	_____

Wedding Budget

Engagement Party

	Estimate #1	Estimate #2	Estimate #3	Actual
Food				
Beverages/Liquor				
Location Charges				
Cake				

Bridesmaids' Party or Luncheon

Food				
Beverages/Liquor				
Location Charges				
Cake				

Flowers for Ceremony, Reception, Bridesmaids

Altar/Chuppah				
Pew Bows or Bouquets				
Aisle Runners				
Bride's Bouquet				
Maid of Honor Bouquet				
Bridesmaids' Bouquets				
Flower Girl Bouquet/Basket				
Bride's Toss-A-Way Bouquet				
Groom's, Groomsmen's Flowers				
Cake Table Arrangement				
Head Table Arrangement				
Family Table Centerpieces				
Guest Table Centerpieces				
Other _____				
Delivery Fee				

Wedding Gown, Headpiece, and Accessories

Wedding Gown				
Headpiece and Veil				
Alterations				
Undergarments				
Purse				
Shoes/Hosiery				
Garters				
Jewelry				
Hair Dresser				
Manicurist				
Facial/Make up Artist				
Other Accessories				
Gown Preservation				
Bridal Trousseau				

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Wedding Budget

For the Groom

____ Groom's Wedding Ring
____ Groom's Gift

Estimate #1

Estimate #2

Estimate #3

Actual

Photography

- _____ Engagement Portrait
- _____ Formal Wedding Portrait
- _____ Proofs
- _____ Wedding Album
- _____ Candids
- _____ Disposable Cameras
- _____ Parents' Albums
- _____ Reprints
- _____ Special Effects
- _____ Photographer's Fee

Videography

- _____ Ceremony
- _____ Reception
- _____ Duplicate Tapes
- _____ Editing Charges
- _____ Special Effects

Ceremony

- _____ Church/Ceremony Site
- _____ Custodial Fees
- _____ Candelabra/Candles
- _____ Canopy/Chuppah
- _____ Ringbearer's Pillow
- _____ Birdseed/Rice/Balloons
- _____ Other (Rentals)
- _____ Organist/Pianist
- _____ Soloist
- _____ Other Musicians

Reception

_____ Site Rental
 _____ Food
 _____ Hors d'oeuvres
 _____ Wedding Cake

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Reception Cont.

	Estimate #1	Estimate #2	Estimate #3	Actual
_____ Cake Top	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Groom's Cake	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Cake Knife/Server	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Alcoholic Beverages (Groom)	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Non-Alcoholic Beverages	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Servers	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Bartenders	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Valet Parkers	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Band/Musicians	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ DJ	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Gratuities/Taxes	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Ice Sculpture	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Toasting Glasses	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Card/Money Box	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Favors	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Cookies/Traying Fee	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Mints/Candies	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Balloons/Arches	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Decorations	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Linens	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ China	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Rentals (chairs, tables, etc.)	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Transportation for Bridal Party

_____ Limousines	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Chauffeur's Gratuity	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Carriages	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Driver's Gratuity	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Rental Cars	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Parking	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Bride's Attendants' Gifts

_____ Honor Attendant	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Bridesmaids	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Flower Girl	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Guest Book Attendant	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Hostess/Consultant	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Other

	Estimate #1	Estimate #2	Estimate #3	Actual
____ Bride's Physical Exam/Blood Test	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Guest Book	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Bridal Consultant	_____	_____	_____	_____

If desired...

____ Accommodations for bride's out-of-town attendants/guests	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Cocktail Party	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Day After Brunch	_____	_____	_____	_____

Groom and/or His Family

For the Bride

____ Bride's Engagement/Wedding Rings	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Bride's Bouquet	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Wedding Present for Bride	_____	_____	_____	_____

Flowers for Parents, Grandparents, and Ushers

____ Mothers' Corsages	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Grandmothers' Corsages	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Boutonnieres for Fathers	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Boutonnieres for Grandfathers	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Boutonnieres for Ushers	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Boutonniere for Ringbearer	_____	_____	_____	_____

Groom's Attendants' Gifts

____ Best Man	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Ushers	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Ring Bearer	_____	_____	_____	_____

Rehearsal Dinner

____ Site Fee	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Food	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Beverages/Liquor	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Cake	_____	_____	_____	_____

Honeymoon

____ Transportation	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Lodging	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Entertainment	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Food/Meals	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Spending Money	_____	_____	_____	_____

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Wedding Budget

Miscellaneous Fees

	Estimate #1	Estimate #2	Estimate #3	Actual
____ Fee for Officiant or Clergyman	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Marriage License	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Groom's Physical Exam/blood Test	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Wedding Night Accommodations	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Groom's Formalwear	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Liquor and Drinks at Reception	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

If Desired...

____ Accommodations for Groom's Out-of-Town Attendants and Guests	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
____ Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Attendants' Budget

Bride's Attendants

Maid of Honor Dress/Headpiece	_____	_____	_____	_____
Maid of Honor Alterations	_____	_____	_____	_____
Maid of Honor Shoes	_____	_____	_____	_____
Bridesmaid's Dress/Headpiece	_____	_____	_____	_____
Bridesmaid's Alterations	_____	_____	_____	_____
Bridesmaid's Shoes	_____	_____	_____	_____
Undergarments, Hosiery	_____	_____	_____	_____
Flower Girl's Dress/Headpiece	_____	_____	_____	_____
Flower Girl's Alterations	_____	_____	_____	_____
Flower Girl's Shoes	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Groom's Attendants

Usher's Formalwear	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ring Bearer's Formalwear	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Other

Travel Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____
Showers and/or Parties for the Bridal Couple	_____	_____	_____	_____
Wedding Gift	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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