



Top 9 Mistakes to Avoid When Planning Your Wedding

1. Not Having Everything in Writing

They're some of the biggest wedding nightmares: a cake that never shows, a photographer who is MIA, a floral designer showing up with the wrong color pallet. You wanted pastels with lots of greenery, not these bright red flowers! You want them to fix it, but you don't even have proof that you paid them, let alone gave them directions. Now, with your ceremony in an hour, you are out of money and out of time. Have a legally binding contract with every single vendor that you hire, and know exactly what to expect on your wedding day. Or else you could end up with a wedding day and no photos to show for it. Not having a contract could cost a lot more than the money you lost to the no-show vendor — it could cost you precious memories. Rule of thumb: Never hire a vendor that doesn't offer a contract. All reputable and professional vendors will have a standard contract for their business. And be sure to confirm all your details in writing!

2. Just Assuming Everyone Knows What to Do and Where to Be

Of course you don't assume everyone can read your mind or remember every detail you mention to them. Still, timelines and plans can get lost in the planning shuffle. By the time your wedding rolls around, you may not realize how little your vendors and wedding party know. Don't let that happen. Use Best Wedding Timeline to create a plan and schedule for your wedding. This way, everyone knows where to go and when to be there. You can even enable automatic text reminders to communicate with all your vendors and key guests. Ease of mind? Yes, please!

3. Not Packing an Extra Pair of Shoes

You picked out the perfect shoes and wore them for all your photos, the ceremony, cocktail hour, and dinner. Then the foot pain hit, complete with blisters and aches. Now, every dance move is accompanied by a painful sting in your shoes. Bring a pair of comfortable shoes to dance the night away and feel happy in every step. Once everyone has settled in for the reception, no one (Seriously, not one person!) will be looking at your shoes. Enjoy the night with happy toes!

4. Not Hiring a Planner (or at Least a Month-of or Day-of Coordinator!)

Yikes! Not having a coordinator for the day of your wedding (and all the planning leading up to it!) can cause some major anxiety for you and everyone involved in your wedding. Planners and coordinators are equipped with professional, first-hand knowledge of what it takes to have a successful, fun, and beautiful wedding. You don't want to take on the responsibility of the planner and the person getting married. Hire a professional and fully enjoy your day. It is worth every single penny. Promise!

5. Forgetting About Lighting

You have planned the entire thing. You are done! But you forgot to provide lighting to showcase the cake, card, and guest book tables after dark. You can barely see your guests, and you are simply relying on the tiny tealights on your dinner tables. You are even contemplating turning on the overhead lights (eek! Not ideal). Hire a professional lighting company to install a few uplights and spotlights to create the evening ambiance you imagined for your wedding.

6. Not Having a Rain Plan (or a Sun/Heat Plan!)

You know the saying: "Plan to fail or fail to plan!" That's how rain plans go. If you don't have one - you will probably end up needing it. And if you have one - you probably won't need to even use it. Speak with your venue to discuss what their typical rain plan looks like. From there, put together a plan for your day to ensure everyone knows what they need to do to pivot - just in case. Does the idea of rain on your wedding day stress you out? This is one great example of why we recommend booking a wedding planner or day-of coordinator. These professionals are trained to pivot at a moment's notice so that your guests don't even notice that minor changes have been made.

7. Not Having a Professional Timeline

This is a given! Wedding days are long, and there are so many people and moving parts involved. A professional wedding day timeline ensures everything happens seamlessly. It keeps all of your vendors, venue managers, and attendants aware of their responsibilities for the day. You want to enjoy your day without being asked a million questions all day long, right? Your wedding day timeline will guide everyone to the right place at the right time, so you have one less thing to worry about.

8. Not Creating a Budget

Weddings cost money - that isn't a big secret. You can't start booking any vendors without establishing a budget. Extra tip: your guest list quantity will greatly affect your budget, so it is best to create these at the same time.

9. Not Making a Set-up/Clean-up Plan

Think of the last wedding you attended. Were your feet sore and your body exhausted by the end of the night? Now, think about having to clean a venue or load up vehicles for an hour or two longer into the night. I agree, that sounds miserable! We highly recommend making a setup and cleaning plan with your vendors and/or family members before your wedding day.