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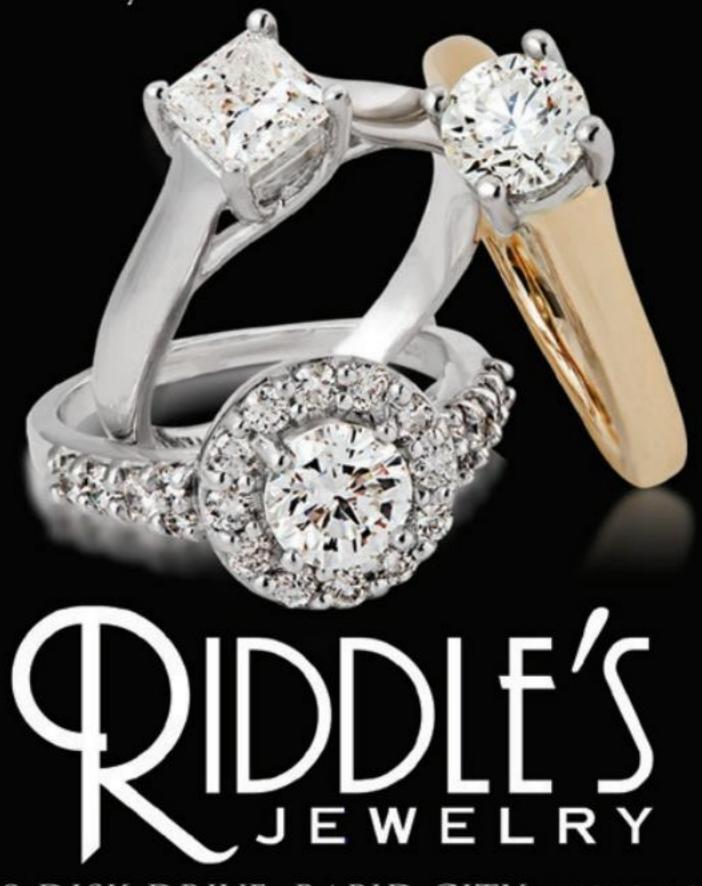
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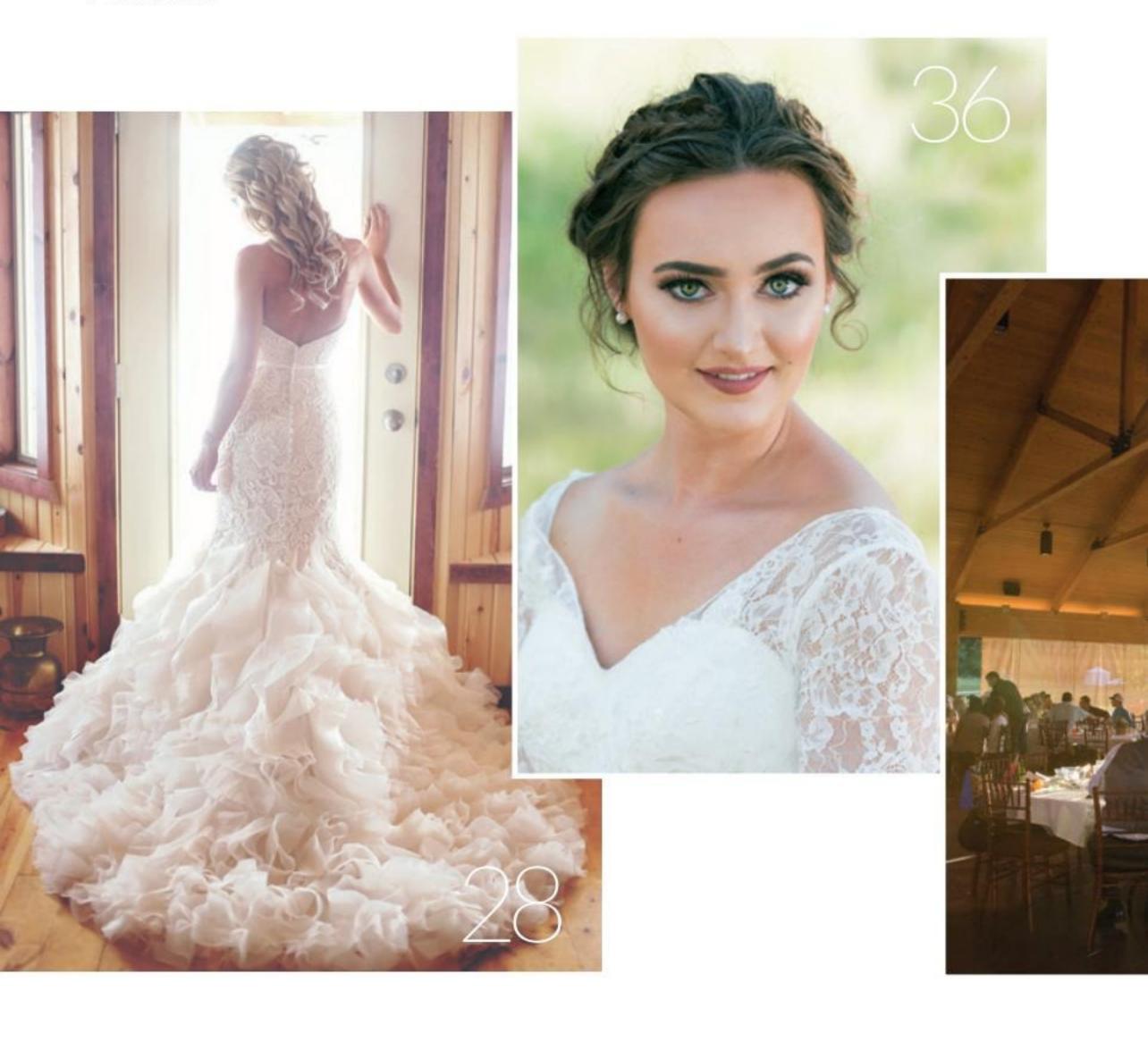




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CONGRATULATIONS

- 6 Start Here
- 12 Cover Wedding: Sydney and Caleb
- 16 You're Engaged... Now What?
- 18 Engagement Photo Tips

Legal

19 SD Marriage License

Consultant

20 Your Personal Planner

Stationery

- 24 Pretty in Print
- 25 Guests Sign In

FASHION & BEAUTY

Fashion

- 28 Finding Your Gown
- 32 Silhouette Guide
- 34 Bridesmaid Dresses
- 35 Preserve Your Gown

Beauty

- 36 Bridal Beauty Routine
- 40 Do's and Don'ts of Wedding-Day Beauty
- 41 Bride's Advice
- 41 Emergency Kit Essentials

Groom

- 42 His Attire
- 42 Groom's Checklist

CEREMONY

Ceremony

- 46 Preparing for Forever
- 46 Symbols to Remember
- 48 Ceremony Readings

DÉCOR & FLORAL

Décor

52 Rent the Scene

Floral

- 60 Breathtaking Blooms
- 60 Terms to Know

RECEPTION

Reception

- 70 Reception Perfection
- 71 Questions to Ask
- 72 Flow of Events
- 76 Weather What-Ifs
- 80 Welcome Your Guests



Transportation

90 Arrival and Exit

91 Questions to Ask

CATERING & CAKES

Catering

96 Booking Your Caterer

97 Questions to Ask

102 Catering Myths

104 Cheers to You

Cakes

106 Selecting Your Flavor

108 Terms to Know

ENTERTAINMENT

Music

112 On the Mic

113 Questions to Ask

116 Reception Playlist

Lighting

114 Light the Night

114 Lighting 101

Photo Booth

118 Wacky Fun Photos

118 Questions to Ask

PHOTO & VIDEO

Photo

122 Find Your Style

126 The First Look

128 Plugged-In...or Not

132 Photo Displays

136 Packages, Proofs and Prints

Video

140 Love in Motion

140 Questions to Ask

GIFTS & PARTY

156 Ways to Thank

158 Your Wedding-Gift Registry

159 Anniversary Gift Ideas

Parties

160 Showered in Love

Honeymoon

162 Ticket to Paradise

164 Planning Your Honeymoon

Congratulations

166 Wedding Wrap-Up

169 Services Directory

177 Wedding Planner

Congratulations! You're beginning one of the most exciting times of your life — wedding planning — and we're here with professionals, advice, timelines and a detailed planner to assist you. Our goal is to get you from your "yes" to your "I do" with minimal stress, as you realize the wedding of your dreams.

Connect with us at BlackHillsBride.com for a personalized wedding planning experience. For daily doses of everything bridal, join our community of brides on our social media sites. If you have questions, need advice, or have tips for other brides – message us on Facebook. If you have inspiring photos tag us on Instagram @blackhillsbride or use the hashtag #blackhillsbride.

Manage your timelines and checklists as we introduce you to local wedding professionals who can help you create your special day, your way. When you contact a business tell them you saw their ad in Black Hills Bride — they will want to know.

Our simple advice is this: have fun, stay organized and remember to experience the process — it's once in a lifetime.

Happy planning!

When asked about the favorite part of her day, the cover bride couldn't choose a single moment.

From their pastor's ability to be funny, genuine and eloquent all at the same time during the ceremony, to celebrating with guests, an awesome best man speech and a dance of a lifetime, Sydney and Caleb's day was filled with countless memories.



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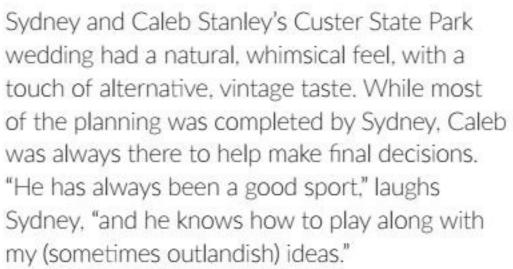
SYDNEY SAYLER & CALEB STANLEY

CEREMONY & RECEPTION VENUE Custer State Park | SUIT & GOWN Audra's Bridal Gallery DÉCOR & RENTALS Table 4 Decor | REHEARSAL DINNER Alpine Inn





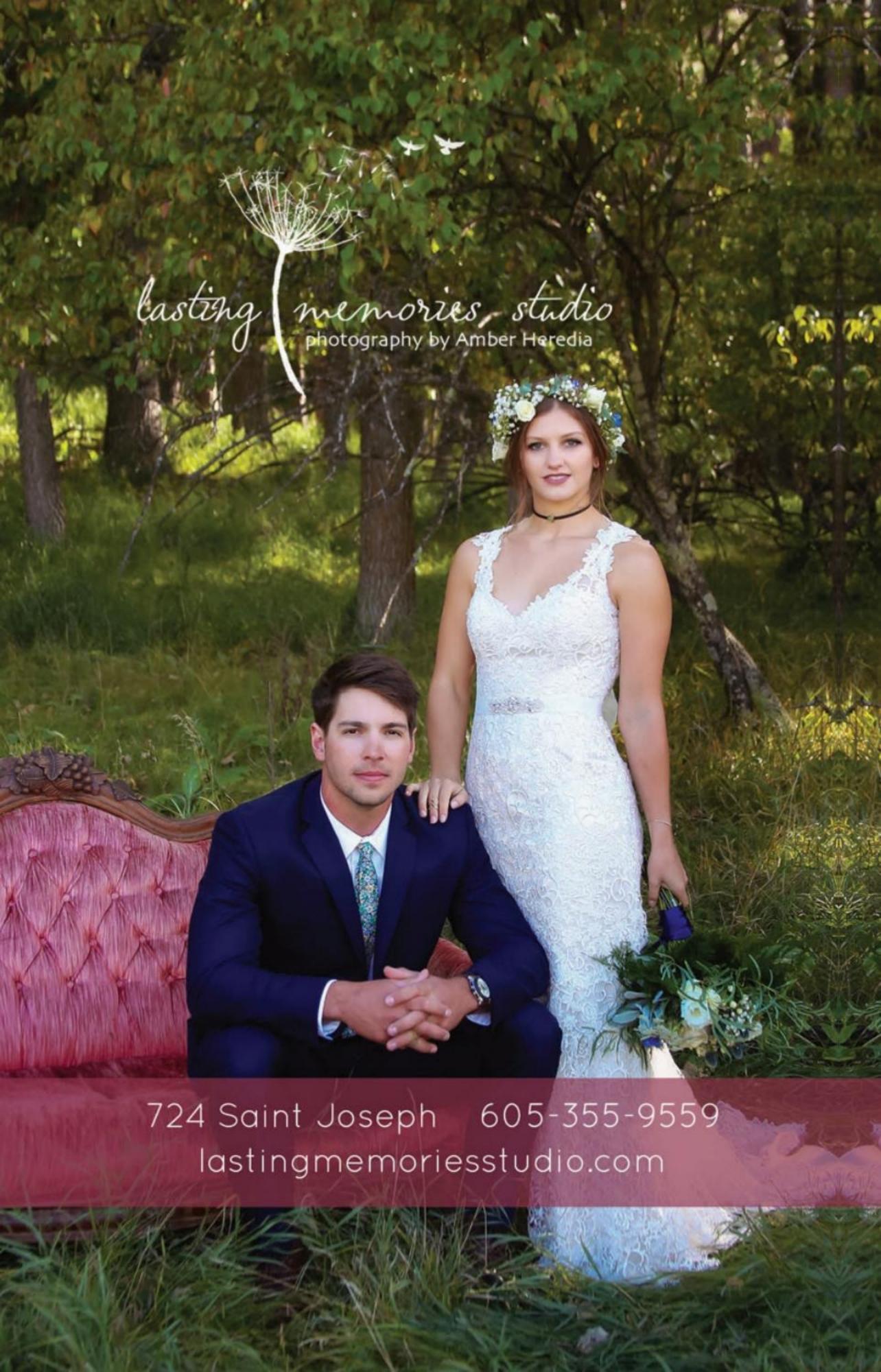




After months of planning, the wedding day finally arrived. September would offer 29 hot days - but the one day of their celebration (September 9) would end up topping out at a "high" of a bitterly cold 54 degrees.

Everyone bundled up in blankets, and the sunset wedding became a dream come true; fireplaces at the reception made for a cozy atmosphere. "Our guests all noted how fun the party was and how the cold seemed to only make people want to dance and mingle more."

As far as planning a celebration of a lifetime, Sydney has a few tips for other brides-to-be: "First, talk to your family about a budget. Then, figure out what each side of the family would like to help cover, and what you will need to cover yourself. Second piece of advice is to stay organized. I created many different tabs and pages for each idea, budget, time frame and meeting I had. Last but not least, don't be a bridezilla. Be loving and caring to everyone involved; your parents, your bridal party, your vendors and your significant other!"







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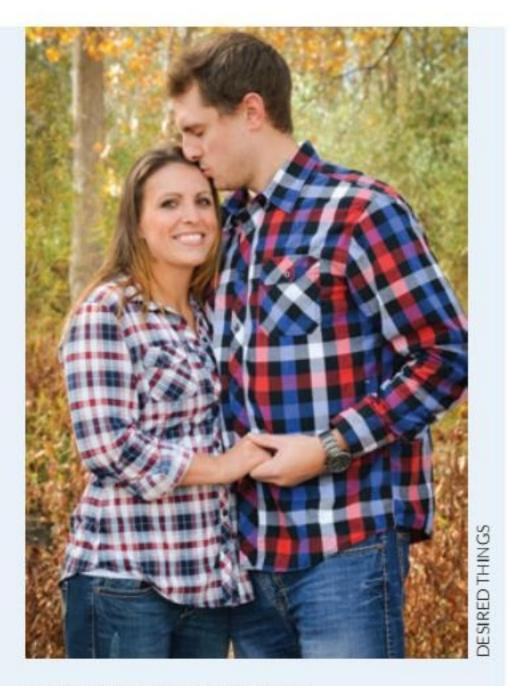




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A SD State Park Entrance License is required.



FIRST STEPS OF PLANNING

Tell your family and friends

Make sure to see or call these VIPs before you post your news on social media.

Size your ring

If your ring wasn't sized, call the jeweler and have it done as soon as possible.

Book an engagement shoot

Most photographers have packages that include engagement and wedding photos.

Draft your guest list

This will help determine what size of reception venue you will need.

Set your budget

Use our budget planning pages at the back of this guide to allocate your funds.

Select your venue

Have a few choices ready, and keep in mind most places are booked a year in advance.

Choose your wedding party

You need help ensuring everything runs smoothly on the big day and leading up to it.

Be inspired

Earmark these pages, use our website and follow our Pinterest boards to start narrowing down your wedding theme.

Try on dresses

The best part of wedding planning!

You're Engaged Now What?

First of all, congratulations! Once the initial shock wears off, you'll need to make a lot of decisions. Don't worry! We are here to help. Before you start meeting with vendors and putting the little details together, there are key factors you will need to sort out. Here are a few places to start your wedding planning after your engagement.

CREATE A BUDGET

Money will be a huge part of your celebration. To avoid racking up costs, know what professionals you need to make your wedding a success, and the limits of what you can spend on each.

DECIDE WHO PAYS

If you will be receiving any assistance from family members, sit down and communicate about who will be paying for what. No matter who contributes to the wedding budget, the financial responsibility is ultimately the couple's.

BE REALISTIC

Allocate your funds accordingly and prioritize what is necessary for your celebration. If you aren't sure which vendors you will need and how much to spend, check out the Budget Development sheet on page 181.

STICK TO YOUR NUMBERS

It's going to be hard! But the last thing you want is to add to your debt with wedding expenses. It will be a better start to married life without monetary worries.





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The Homestead at Prairie Berry Winery offers rustic charm and a breathtaking setting. Enjoy menu items prepared by our in-house culinary team, award-winning wines and local craft beer with exceptional service, all in our refreshing, private environment.

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TIPS FOR YOUR

Engagement Photos

Engagement photos will both capture this new adventure in your life and give you beautiful images to share in your announcement to family and friends.

The engagement photo session gives you and your fiancé a chance to get to know your photographer and how he or she interacts with you before the wedding day. You will be more comfortable the day of the wedding knowing that all of your personalities blend, which can ease any tension and anxiety.

Your photographer also will get to know the two of you during this time. Do your eyes blink a lot? Do you need help in some posed shots? What angles look best for your facial expressions? This session will save time when creating a "timeless portrait" on your wedding day.

Have a session that highlights your favorite thing to do together. Be creative, go do something you love and bring your photographer along with you.

Share your ideas

Talk to your photographer about locations you would like to go to and your ideas. Maybe you would love to have more candid pictures taken in a coffee shop. The better you communicate about what you are looking for in your pictures, the more likely you'll get it.





Look Amazing

Bring several outfits so as to choose the clothes that go best with each background. Keep in mind: solids are great and look good next to almost any backdrop. Also, it is important for your clothes to complement and look good next to your fiance's, but try to avoid looking like twins.

Have Fun

Your engagement session should be stress free and relaxed. It is an experience to enjoy together.

Bring Props.

Bringing your own fun props will give you something to do, and make your photos unique to you as a couple. When choosing your props, think of your style, the location of your shoot, your clothing changes and your wedding theme. You will want everything to flow nicely.

TIP: Use your photos for engagement announcements, wedding invitations or to decorate your guest book and reception tables. Find more ideas at BlackHillsBride.com.

Marriage License

An engaged couple must appear together at any South Dakota County Register of Deeds office with photo identification (Driver's License, State ID, Military ID, Tribal Photo ID or a certified copy of birth certificate) to apply. Allow at least 30 minutes for the complete application process.

LICENSING FEES

The license fee is \$40. If you change your name after you are married, you will need a certified copy of the marriage license for your new South Dakota driver's license. A fee of \$15 for a certified copy applies.

WAITING PERIOD AND USE

No waiting period or blood test is required; license can be used immediately, and must be solemnized within 20 days from issue date or the license becomes void.

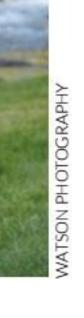
WHAT TO DO WITH THE LICENSE

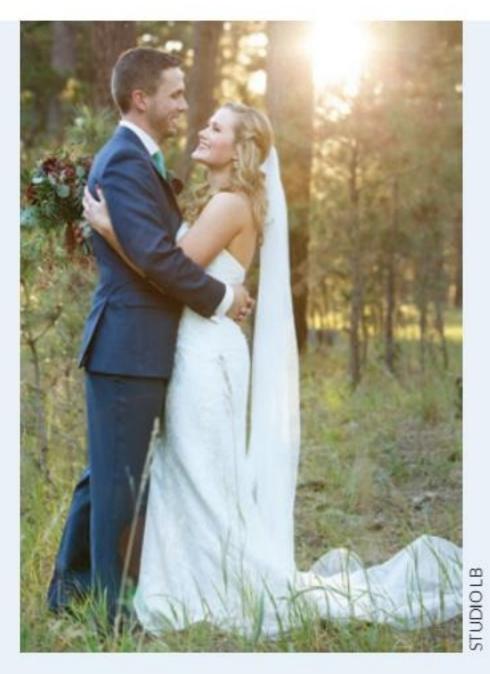
Deliver the license to the person who solemnizes the marriage. The officiant must complete the bottom portion of the license (also signed by the couple and two witnesses), and then return it to the Register of Deeds within 10 days of the wedding. The license remains on file permanently in the issuing registrar's office.

WHO CAN PERFORM THE SERVICE

Marriage may be solemnized by a justice of the Supreme Court, a judge of the circuit court, a magistrate, or any person authorized by a church to solemnize marriages.







WHERE TO APPLY:

Butte County

Register of Deeds Office 839 5th Avenue, Belle Fourche (605) 892-2912

Custer County

Register of Deeds Office 420 Mt. Rushmore Road, Custer (605) 673-8171

Fall River & Shannon Counties

Register of Deeds Office 906 N. River Street, Hot Springs (605) 745-5139

Lawrence County

Register of Deeds Office 90 Sherman Street, Deadwood (605) 578-3930

Meade County

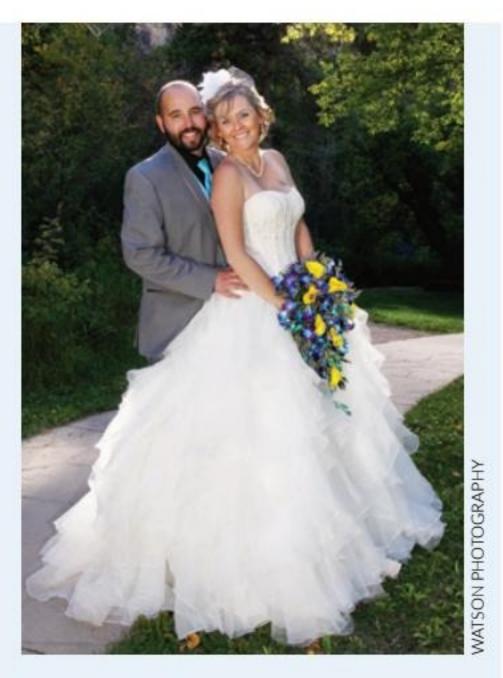
Register of Deeds Office 1300 Sherman St., Ste. 138, Sturgis (605) 347-2356

Pennington County

Register of Deeds Office 315 St. Joseph Street, Rapid City (605) 394-2177

Please note:

State and county marriage license requirements can change. The information provided here is for guidance only and should not be regarded as legal advice.



WHAT TO ASK:

- · Do you have our date available?
- · What made you want to be a wedding planner?
- · How long have you been in business?
- How many weddings have you planned?
- What are your pricing packages?
- · What do your services include?
- · Describe the most challenging wedding you've planned and how you handled the problems that came up.
- · Have you worked with the venue we've chosen?
- · If our event is outside, do you also help arrange an alternative plan?
- Are we required to work only with vendors on your reccommended list?
- · Will you be present at our vendor meetings?
- · Will you invoice us for vendor fees, or do we handle that ourselves?
- Will you provide us with a timeline of the wedding and a floor plan of the venue?
- · Is the wedding day rehearsal included in your fees?
- Will you be onsite during our wedding?
- · How early do we need to book your services?
- · Are there any fees that won't be included on your proposal?
- · What is your cancellation policy?

Your Personal Wedding Planner

You may be super organized and creative, but when it comes time to walk down the aisle, all you will really want is to feel the love - not the stress. If your life is already busy, then recognize that your wedding day will be much more enjoyable if you are not stressing over every detail and choreographing each segment of your wedding to "perfection."

However, you might think that hiring a wedding consultant is out of your budget. But before deciding one way or the other, understand how one can help you. Consider these benefits of getting help from a wedding planner.

BEST INTERESTS IN MIND

One of the biggest advantages of hiring a good wedding coordinator is that someone will have your best interests in mind. A planner can direct you to vendors who do amazing work, as well as steer you away from vendors who won't meet your needs and level of service you deserve. They know industry standards - such as pricing and services for wedding vendors - and will work to ensure that you get what you need.

WEDDING PLANNING TAKES TIME

Until you really get into the preparations for your big day, it is impossible to imagine just exactly how much work is really involved. There are so many details to be taken care of, and if you work long hours, have lots of hobbies or have children to look after, you don't want to be completely drowning in to-do lists during your engagement.











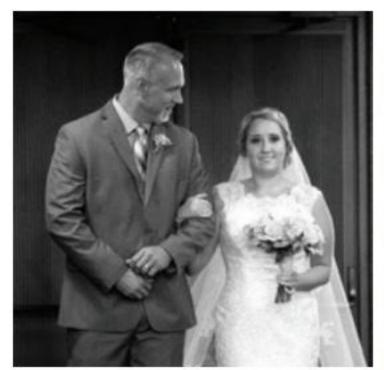




WEDDING PLANNING SERVICES

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"Audra's Bridal was a tremendous help for my wedding! I had the best experience with my bridal planner Frankie. I would definitely reccommend utilizing a bridal planner to make your day stress free!" - BRITTANY L.



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So having a wedding coordinator to handle some of the tasks for you could be a lifesaver.

At the beginning of your wedding planning, sit down as a couple and consider how much time, how much budget and how many helpers you will have readily available for any big-day preparations. Consider which tasks you could do with professional support, and which planning areas you'd be happy to outsource to someone. A wedding planner could be your best path to a smoother, less stressful and more romantic wedding-day experience.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

Planners offer different levels of service, so it's important to make sure you decide beforehand how much help you think you'll need. Consulting and "day-of" services are cheaper but significantly less comprehensive than a full-service planner. Full-service planners attend vendor meetings with you, help design your overall concept, keep everything running smoothly and ensure that everyone sticks to the scheduled timetable.

Wedding consultants will help get you on the right path and offer advice, while day-of planners will only be there to help the ceremony you have already planned stay on track. Knowing what services are covered when you hire someone is extremely important. Be sure to read and fully understand your agreement before you sign for any vendor's services.

KNOW WHAT TO ASK

Consultations give you the opportunity to ask how much time the planner will be able





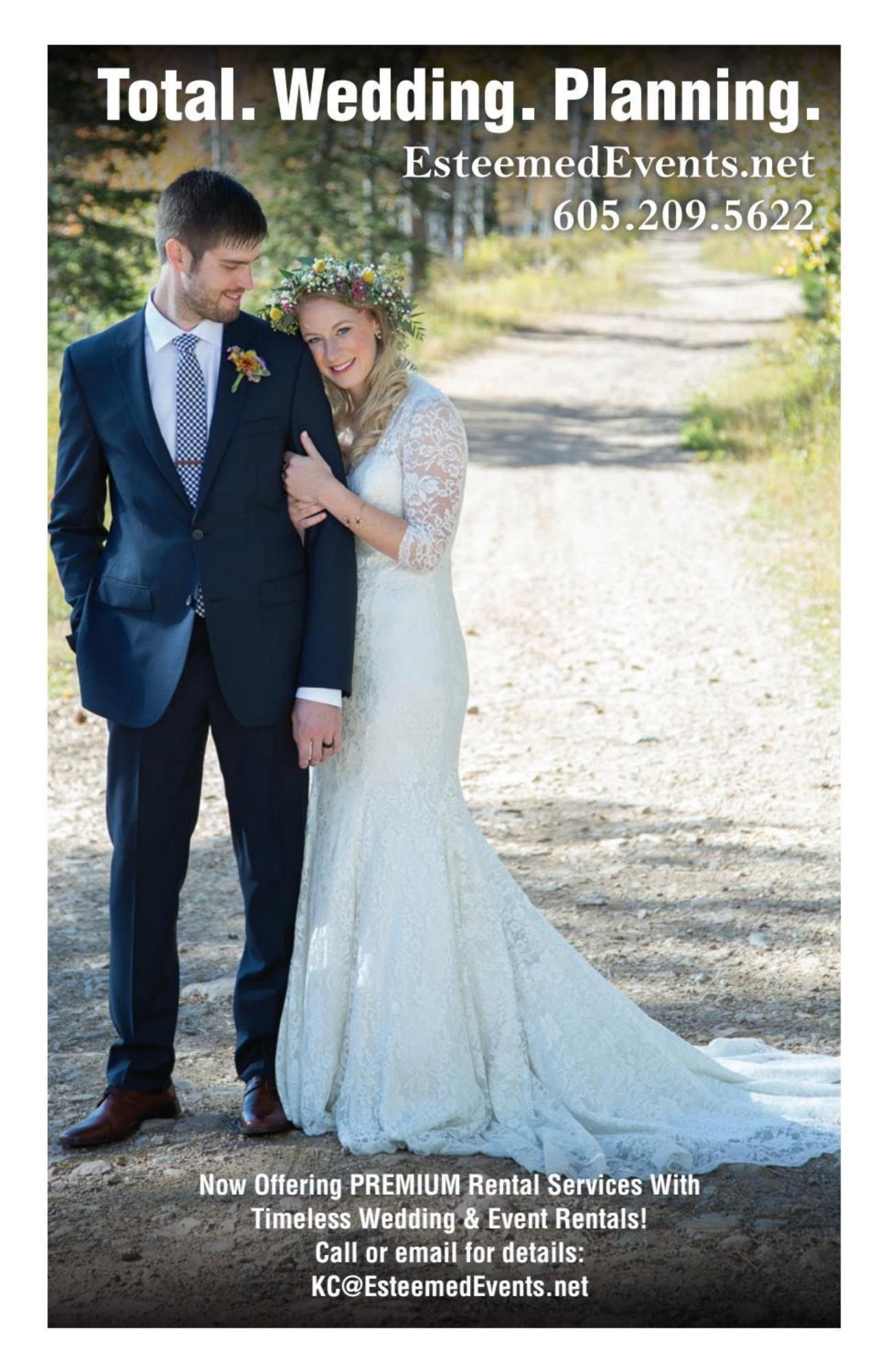
to devote to your wedding, get to know the planner's past projects and to ask about their experiences. There are no formal education guidelines for wedding planning, but professional organizations offer training classes that lead to authentic industry certifications.

HELP COMMUNICATE

Initial consultations let you get a feel for each other and determine whether or not you will be on the same page during the planning process. If there is a good connection between you and your planner, you know that someone will speak up during consultations with vendors to help you get the options that best suit the style you are searching for. The planner can be the backbone in the conversation, saying, "No, she doesn't like it. Let's try something else."

DIFFICULTY ASKING FOR HELP

There is much to do in preparing your special day, so without a planner you either must ask for help from family and friends or handle everything yourselves. It's often hard or awkward to keep asking your family or bridal party to help. There are several tasks that a day-of wedding planner can have coordinated for you, rather than burdening yourselves or your guests. [BHB]





WHAT TO ASK:

- · How long have you been in business?
- · What are your pricing packages?
- · When is payment due?
- · Do you offer custom invitations? Is there an extra fee?
- · For customization, what are the options I have for fonts, color, paper, etc.?
- · Based on the paper we select and the number of pieces involved, what would it cost to mail our wedding invitations?
- Once I place our order, how long will it take to complete?
- Will I have a proof before you print my stationery?
- · How much additional time will it take to redo my order if there is a problem with it? Is there a cost?
- · Do you have any rush-order availability? What does this cost?
- · Will you assemble the stationery if it involves multiple pieces?
- Do you offer an addressing service? What are the fees?
- · What is your cancellation policy?

Pretty in Print

Although there are a lot of digital options available, traditional, printed stationery for your celebration is an important detail in your wedding planning that your guests are sure to notice. Working with a creative professional will open up your options beyond anything an online announcement could provide.

Stationery will include everything in print that carries a matching style across all pieces. Items couples usually include will be your save-thedates, invites and RSVPs before the wedding, your ceremony programs, table placeholders and menus for the wedding, and thank yous and envelopes for post-wedding wrap up tasks.

Working with a local designer, you will be able to ensure that the theme and style you have chosen will be consistent across the board on all your printed items. A cohesive look is a small detail that will make a large impact.

To figure out your timeline, start with your save-the-dates. These should be sent four to six months before your date - to be followed by your invites and response cards six weeks before the wedding. This gives your guests ample time to reply and make their travel arrangements, as well as getting you numbers for your venues and other vendors you are working with.

Wedding stationery is an easy way to add personality to your day, complement your theme and get guests excited about celebrating with you - not to mention creating a keepsake you will treasure for years to come. Talk to a local design professional and explore the countless options that will complete your wedding details. [BHB]



JENNI HAHN PHOTOGRAPHY

Guests Sign In

Gone are the days of traditional feathered pens and a lined book for remembering the family and friends who attended your wedding day. When you choose a creative alternative for your guestbook, it can be used as keepsake and even decoration in your home. From art to helpful tools for the future, the possibilities are endless.

Gathering signatures on artwork is a memorable way to capture the names of guests. Thumbprint trees, signed photo canvases or quilts and even written names on a spinning globe or framed piece can adorn the walls and shelves in your future home.

For practical sign-in options, think of things you will want after your wedding day. Having guests write tips and date night ideas to put in a jar will be helpful down the road. Some couples will have envelopes for guests to address their own thank yous. It will not only fill your adress book, but also help with post-wedding tasks.

You will want to remember your wedding day forever, especially the special people with whom you have shared it. Unique sign-in ideas are sure to impress your guests, so don't be surprised if most of the comments in your guestbook are about the guestbook itself!



CHUTIN FLICKS PHOTOGRAPHY







SHOPPING DAY

Have a price in mind.

Don't waste time trying on dresses out of your price range. You don't want to fall for a gown you can't afford. Also budget for your veil, lingerie, jewelry and shoes.

Create your look.

Based on your venues and your theme, create a style you want to achieve. Put those Pinterest boards to work and create a gallery.

Bring the extras.

Make sure to bring any accessories you have already purchased to ensure the styles are cohesive. This includes heirloom jewelry, hair pieces and shoes.

Dress accordingly.

Keep your make up light to keep the dresses clean. It also helps to have your hair similar to what you are looking for on your wedding day, too (up or down) for the full effect.

LOCAL ADVANTAGE

No matter if you know the look and love a particular designer, or seem to be starting from scratch, it's best to shop local. The staff at local bridal salons can help get you started trying styles on right away.

These local professionals know their inventory and can personally assist you in this important dress purchase. Utilize their industry expertise to ensure selection of a gown that's right for you.

Fashion



e know shopping for the wedding dress is the most anticipated prewedding moment for brides, and it should be all fun. But having so many choices makes it easy for a bride to get overwhelmed – and it can become anything but enjoyable. If you prepare ahead of time and follow these tips for your shopping experience, you will find the perfect dress with ease and confidence.

TIP Once you find "the dress", stop looking! Have faith in your decision, and enjoy the peace of mind that finding the perfect gown brings.

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

Unless you plan for a twelve-month or longer engagement, set a budget right away and start looking for your wedding dress up to nine months before the wedding day. At the same time, don't procrastinate these important pieces to your wedding day. Some dress designers require six to eight months to produce a dress; others may be

longer or even quicker, so be sure to ask. Order early to avoid rush-order fees and to allow plenty of time for fittings, alterations and, of course, Murphy's Law (whatever can go wrong will).

COME TO TERMS

When you imagine yourself walking down the aisle, how would you describe the dress style you are wearing? If you need help with the terms to use, become familiar with specialty fabrics and dress silhouettes to help you communicate the details of what you want.

If you are still searching for that certain look, flip through these magazine pages and mark the dresses you like for your consultant. Have a budget in mind before you go, and don't be afraid to communicate your budget with the professional helping you at your appointment. After all, they are there to help your dress dreams come true and to provide you with the best shopping experience possible.

Be sure you understand the special order policy of the bridal salon. In most cases, when you order your wedding dress it is a final sale.

STYLE GUIDE

The details of your ceremony - the season, how formal it will be, the location, theme, etc. should be used as a guide in choosing a dress for your ceremony. Select a fabric and finish that is appropriate for the location and weather of your





WHAT TO ASK:

- How long should I expect my visit to last?
- Are appointments one-on-one?
- Can I schedule an appointment after hours?
- How long does it take to order a bridal gown?
- Do I have to take my gown home after I purchase it?
- · Are rental gowns available?
- When do I need to start alterations?
- · Can you alter dresses not purchased at your store?
- · Will you alter any brand of dress?
- How long does it take to order bridesmaid dresses?
- What should I do if my bridesmaids are not local?
- · What happens if my bridesmaid finds out she's pregnant?
- · Are any discounts available for the wedding party if we purchase the dress and/or suit at your store?
- · What information do you need to rent tuxedos?
- Is it possible to rent just a few parts of the tuxedo?
- Do you accept returns?
- What are your shipping options?



wedding day. Each possible scenario calls for a different style of dress, so be sure to share this information at your appointment.

ALTERED TO FIT

Don't get caught up on numbers and fixate on the size of the dress, but instead on how your measurements compare to the designer's chart. Gown sizes usually run one to two sizes different than your day-to-day street clothes.

Most of the time, brides will be planning to lose weight before their big day or get in better shape. Play it safe and order a size that fits your current body – not the size you hope to be. It will be much easier to take in the dress to make it smaller than to let out the seams and add fabric to accomodate a larger size than planned. Any dress can be taken in, typically up to four sizes without affecting the look of the dress, but most can only be let out one full size – if that – without having to rebuild the silhouette.

To achieve a perfect fit, your dress will likely need minor alterations in the bust, waist and hips, and is best done by a professional seamstress.

Don't take a gamble with amateurs. [BHB]













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Silhouette Guide

The silhouette of a wedding dress refers to its overall shape. Naturally, your style choice will be based on your body shape — and the parts you want to accentuate will ultimately determine which style you choose.



Mermaid A trumpet-style dress that has a very fitted bodice then just above the knee, flares out like a tail of a mermaid into a dramatic train. Sheath These sleek column dresses are form fitting from top to bottom and have no waist. The style either hugs the natural curves of the body, or falls in a straight line from the shoulders to the hemline. Tea-Length This skirt falls in between the ankle and the knee. Empire Waist These dresses have a fitted bodice that ends just below the bust and free flowing skirts that help lengthen the body's appearance. Ball Gown This dress is the traditional Cinderella dress. This look will have a fitted bodice that flares to a full skirt. A-Line This look highlights the narrowness of the midsection with a fitted bodice and floats away from the hips and thighs into a flared skirt. Trumpet Fitted through the body and flairs midthigh, this cut is in between an a-line and a mermaid style gown.



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TIPS FOR CHOOSING

Bridesmaid Dresses

Consider color

Do you want bright brights or pastels? Will everyone be in the same shade? Keep the complexions and hair colors of your friends in mind as you select your bridesmaid dresses. Generally, brighter colors flatter darker complexions, while pastel hues compliment fairer skin tones.

Whose budget?

Think about your party's financial situation. If the price tag is over their budget, you could cover the difference yourself. Conflict over cost should never come between friends.

Re-wearability

Will the dresses just hang in their closets after the wedding? Don't ask them to purchase a dress they would never wear again. Black and navy look great on almost everyone and can be worn to other formal events.

Decide style

Do you want to do something trendy, a little different, a little bold? You don't want the style of your bridesmaid dresses clashing with your look. Maintain a coordinated look with dresses that match the formality of the affair and the overall look of the bridal gown.





Same or not

Wearing identical dresses isn't always the case anymore. Are you open to choosing a color or fabric and letting each bridesmaid pick a style that best suits her body type? The dress for your taller bridesmaid may look entirely different on your petite attendant. Most appreciate the chance to pick the style they feel flatters them best.

Fabric and finish

There's a difference between a fabric and a finish. It's important to feel the fabric yourself before committing. Request a swatch to make sure it looks and feels the way you think (and hope) it will.

Bridal entourage

Keep in mind each attendants' height, weight and body shape. Is anyone pregnant? All of these factors effect how the dress will look on her. Ask your bridal party if they would be comfortable in a strapless dress or one that doesn't accommodate bras before choosing it.



Preserve Your Gown

Whether you plan to save your dress for your future daughter or a relative, or you just want to hold onto it as a keepsake, preserving your gown is a must to ensure that it stays in its best shape.

Over time, residue left on your gown can break down the fabric. Stains – both visible and hidden, such as sweat, makeup, dirt, wine, soda (even clear soda!), and more – will settle into the fibers causing them to become brittle, break down or turn a yellow hue. Having your gown professionally cleaned will ensure that the stains are removed and the material is free and clear of damaging residues.

Plastic can ruin your dress. Contrary to belief, the old method of vacuum-packing wedding dresses into plastic bags can actually cause the gown to yellow due to plastic-related fumes. If stored in plastic, it will be as if your dress had been kept in the garment bag from the store.

Professionals will place your dress in an acidfree container that will not only protect your dress from outside damage, but will also not cause damage itself.

Time can cause decay to the fibers. Most fabrics weaken with age. Preservation protects your dress from the elements, extending its wearable life for years.





BRIDAL FITNESS

Seek advice.

Talking to a professional will help you understand your body type, fat type, BMI and other factors – making the process of getting in shape easier.

Stick to the program.

Give yourself time to see results – it will take longer than a month. It's best to start your fitness training six months to one year prior to your wedding.

Watch what you eat.

Be cautious of the amount of sugars and carbohydrates you put into your body. Opt for healthy foods, including whole grains, meats, vegetables and fruits.

Call the pros.

If you've been exercising and eating right but aren't seeing the results you want, there are countless businesses that specialize in slimming, detoxifying and toning options to give a boost to any weight-loss program you use.

PURE RELAXATION

In the months prior to your wedding, think of massage as something you want to get on a regular basis. You deserve to be pampered!

Consider a full-service spa package including a facial, body polish, waxing, spa pedicure and a manicure that will leave you feeling refreshed and rejuvenated, able to tackle the remainder of your planning checklist.

Beauty



hances are that more photos will be taken of a newlywed couple on their big day than at any other moment in their shared lifetime. Make sure you put forward your best look as you get ready for what may be the most important and memorable day in your life. Here are just a few of the beauty options available to you as you prepare.

TIP Don't drastically change your everyday look for your wedding too close to the big day. You still want your pictures to look like you!

WEDDING-DAY HAIRSTYLE

Having your hair done by a professional is important to ensure that your hair will withstand countless hugs and any unknown elements throughout your wedding day.

When meeting with your stylist, bring a photo of the hairstyle you would like to have done, but remember to remain flexible – there are a lot of factors that go into each and every look.

Relax and let the pros do what they do best. Schedule a trial run of your style several weeks prior to the wedding, and bring your accessories to make sure it's the look you want. When you've chosen a style you like best, have your bridesmaids do something similar, so your entire wedding party has a complementary look. On the day of the wedding, wear a button-up shirt to keep your hair and makeup looking flawless.

CARING FOR YOUR SKIN

Nothing is more beautiful than the natural glow of happiness that comes from within a bride on her wedding day. To improve the look of your skin, schedule a series of facials with your last one no later than two weeks before the big day.

Begin to implement a daily skin-care routine of three basic steps: cleanse, exfoliate and moisturize to care for your face. You can then add any special products to help repair and rejuvenate your skin, but be sure to test new products in advance. Exfoliate your body weekly to achieve a healthy shine – paying special attention to the parts of your skin that will be exposed when you are in your dress. Use body cream with sunscreen to smooth and protect the skin.

SUN-KISSED SKIN

A fresh tan looks stunning against a white wedding gown. If your skin has the ability to tan, look for a vendor that offers skin profiling to help





WHAT TO ASK:

- · Do you have my date available?
- · Can we schedule a trial run?
- Are there additional fees for a trial-run or is it a part of the wedding services?
- Are you able to replicate ideas from any images I bring in?
- If I change my mind on my bridal beauty look, is there a charge for a re-trial?
- How long will it take to have my hair and makeup done?
- What should I do if I don't have my hair accessories yet?
- Are you able to do my bridesmaids' hair and/or makeup, too?
- Will you travel? What is the cost?
- Do you bring your own equipment and products?
- What kind of space and lighting do you need?
- Will you bring an assistant to help you?
- How many hair styles and makeup can you complete in a set time frame?
- If you are not at the wedding, can you provide me with hair products and makeup for quick fixes?
- How should I prep my hair for the wedding day?
- Are there any extra day-of charges I should know about?
- If you are unable to do my hair on the scheduled date, what is the back up plan?
- · What is your cancellation policy?



JESSICA SIMONS PHOTOGR.





determine the best tanning unit for the color you're looking for, lotion that will work best and the time allotment for each session. You will want to build a base tan, and remember - the numberone rule is never, ever to burn.

If you have Type-1 skin (fair skin that burns easily) or want to try something beyond the beds, spray tanning is a good alternative. The color takes anywhere from two to four hours to develop and usually lasts five to seven days, but can vary depending on the product being used.

To ensure the results are what you are looking for, do a practice spray tan at least two weeks prior to your wedding day and use a professional. You don't want to be orange for all your photos.

THE PERFECT LOOK

Makeup for big events works a little differently than your everyday look. A professional makeup artist can help you choose a foundation and colors that complement your skin tone and give you a smooth, natural look that will last. Keep in mind that your cheeks will be flushed all night, and with overdone blush you will look too red in person and in pictures.

As with all beauty services, schedule a time prior to your wedding day. Bring in your inspiration photos and communicate clearly the look you are wanting to have, so that your artist can create a gorgeous, lasting appearance.

Inevitably a few tears will be shed, so use waterproof mascara and eye makeup. When you practice, take a picture of your new look at the same time of day that your wedding will be held, and remember - flash photography is less forgiving than a mirror.

MANICURED NAILS

Your hands will be on stage for the entire day - signing the certificate, showing off your rings, shaking hands. Get them looking pretty and polished with a good wedding-day manicure. Painting your nails a dark color such as burgundy, even if that is your wedding color, may make you cringe when you look back at your pictures. Do yourself a favor and choose a pretty pale pink or nude for your wedding day. You can always use the burgundy on your toes!

Getting your nails done ahead of time leaves room for smudges and chips. Explore your options at the salon with gel and acrylic artificial nails that have a longer, stronger lifespan. [BHB]

The perfect team for your perfect day

The last thing you want to worry about on your wedding day is a blemish. Ensure you have flawless skin with regular visits to our team of dermatology experts who have trained at some of the best dermatology centers in the country.



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Dr. Blake Alexander Medical and Surgical Dermatology Rapid City



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Regional Dermatology Department of Spearfish Regional Hospital 550 E Colorado Blvd. Spearfish, SD 57783 (605) 717-8860

*For cosmetic consultations, a \$100 fee must be paid at the first visit. The payment will be applied to any future cosmetic procedures.

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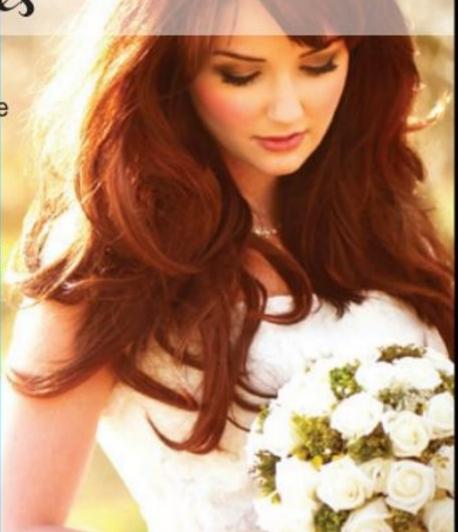
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Wedding-Day Beauty



DO hire a professional hairstylist and makeup artist. They have the experience and tools to help you look your best.

DON'T tweeze or wax brows the day of the ceremony. Instead, take care of hair removal a day or two before.

DO allot enough time for your beauty appointment. If you will be going to a salon, block out two or more slots to avoid being rushed.

DON'T make any drastic changes to your looks right before the wedding. This includes your hair color, extreme tanning or chopping off all of your hair.

DO bring a veil, headpiece and any other accessories to your hair consult.

DON'T forget to schedule a trial run. Schedule it several months before the wedding day so you have ample time to work with your stylists.

DO exfoliate your skin prior to the wedding to remove any dryness and errant flakes. Moisturize well to ensure a smooth palette for makeup application.





DON'T wash or condition hair the day of the wedding. Intricate styles tend to stay better when hair has a little grip.

DO wear a little extra makeup than you are used to wearing because it will show up better in photos. However, do not wear so much that you look clownish.

DON'T wear too much undereye concealer or one that is too light a shade. This can draw more attention to problem areas.

DO experiment with any products you haven't used recently to test for allergic reactions before the wedding.

DON'T forget about your groom. Guys should use a new razor and plenty of cream before shaving to avoid irritation. A dusting of finishing powder can banish shiny noses and foreheads for photoready faces.

R. BECKER CREATIVE

Bride's Advice

Your wedding is the most magical celebration you may ever throw. Inevitably, with a milestone like a wedding day, you are bound to run into some bumps along the way. Here are a few tips to manage the unexpected issues that arise.

HAVE A BACK-UP PLAN

People get sick, equipment breaks and schedules run late. Some things just can't be planned for! When talking with your vendors, always talk about a Plan B to put into action, just in case it's needed on your wedding day.

LET OTHERS HELP

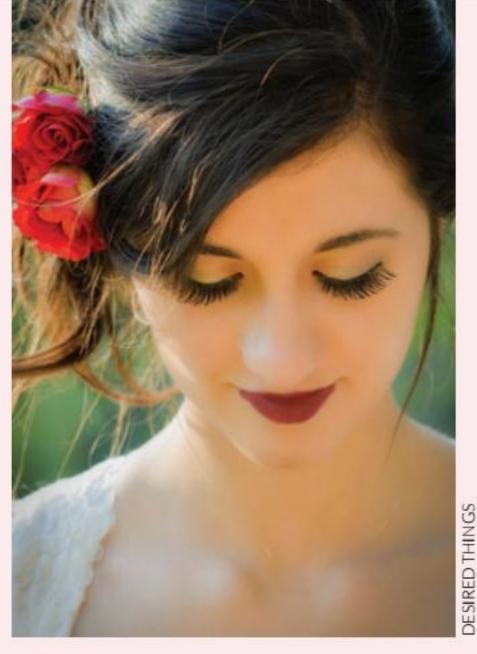
Don't be afraid to ask others for help. And when they ask to help, they mean it! Lean on your fiancé, your wedding party, and family and friends to help you prepare for your day. Decorations, set up, vendor check-ins, schedules and take down all can be tasks delegated to someone else.

JUST ROLL WITH IT

Plan for what you can: pack a day-of kit and order a little more than you may need. But understand that the unexpected is just that - something you can't necessarily plan for. You won't want to be remembered as a bridezilla. Stop and put the issues into perspective, then focus on what this celebration is all about - you and your fiancé are starting a new chapter together in your lives.

No matter what you run into on your wedding day, a memory will be created that you can look back on and laugh at, together.





Emergency Kit

Essentials THE DRAWER THE BEAUTY SHELF ☐ Pen ☐ Brush/Comb ☐ Bobby Pins ☐ Notebook ☐ Styling Products

☐ Q-Tips ☐ Tissues ☐ Make-Up Kit ☐ Make-Up Remover ☐ Baby Powder

☐ Cotton Balls

- ☐ Hand Mirror ☐ Hair Dryer
- ☐ Curling/Flat Irons
- ☐ Ponytail Holder ☐ Clear Nail Polish

THE CABINET

- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Toothbrush ☐ Lotion
- ☐ Dental Floss ☐ Breath Mints
- □ Tampons
- ☐ Pain Reliever ☐ Band-Aids
- ☐ Upset Stomach

Remedy ☐ Eye Drops ☐ Antacids ☐ Tweezers ☐ Nail File

- ☐ Safety Pins
- ☐ Crazy Glue
- ☐ Extra Button
- ☐ Mini-Sewing Kit ☐ Double-Sided
- Tape
- ☐ Stain Releaser Pen
- ☐ Static-Cling Spray
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Lint Roller
- ☐ Extra Earring Backs

THE EXTRAS

- ☐ Bottled Water
- ☐ Energy Drinks
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Cell Phone
- ☐ Charger
- ☐ Straws (So You Do Not Smudge Your Lipstick)
- ☐ Snacks
- ☐ Lighter
- ☐ Flat Shoes



GROOM'S CHECKLIST

- Choose your best man, groomsmen, and ushers.
- ☐ Shop for wedding bands.
- ☐ Select tuxes or suits for groomsmen.
- ☐ Arrange for wedding-day transportation.
- ☐ Buy the bride a memorable gift.
- ☐ Double-check tuxedo orders and sizes.
- ☐ Make sure all groomsmen know when final fittings are and where they'll be.
- ☐ Pick out groomsmen gifts.
- Pick up your wedding rings and doublecheck engravings.
- ☐ Plan your honeymoon.
- ☐ Go over final details with your fiancée.
- ☐ Pick up the tux or suit, try it on, and check yourself out.
- ☐ Make sure everyone has wedding attire.
- ☐ Have your hair cut.
- ☐ Practice your vows.
- ☐ Share the wedding-day game plan with your groomsmen.
- □ Decide where you are going to dress and hang your suit for the wedding day.
- □ Remember the rings, give them to the person of your choice for safe keeping.

His Attire

Yes, the spotlight of the day will no doubt be on the lovely bride – but the groom should look good, too. Whatever the degree of formality the wedding theme may carry, these tips will help when ordering your attire.

First, it's beneficial to know that formalwear can be separated into four styles: black tie, formal, semiformal and casual. The time of your ceremony will strongly influence the level of formality, in turn influencing the attire. Other considerations such as color and theme will also play a part in the selection.

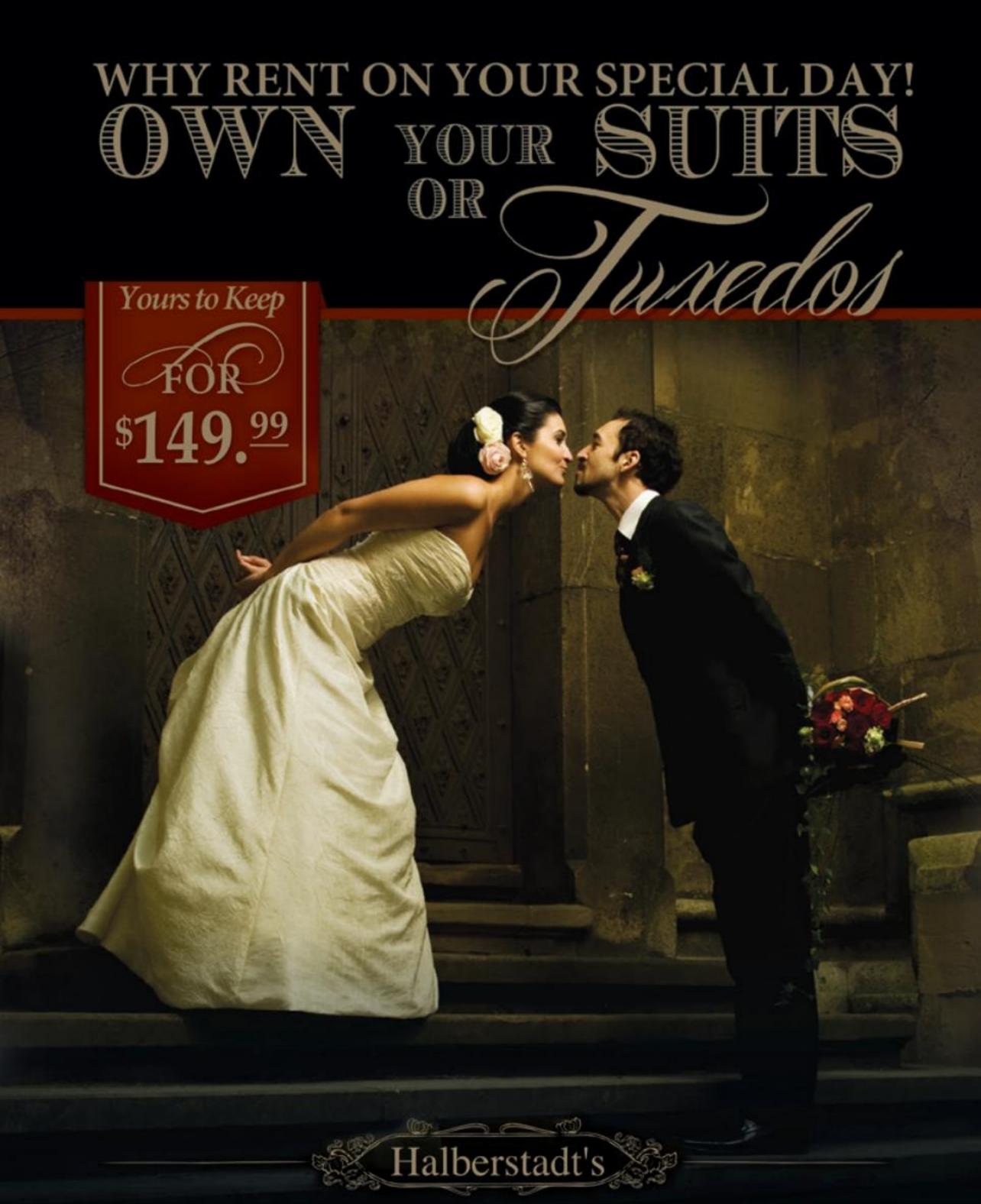
You will want to give yourself plenty of time to order your attire. Formalwear should be reserved or purchased at least six months in advance and all measurements taken at least three months prior to the wedding to allow plenty of time for alterations. If your groomsmen live in different parts of the country, have them measured by a local tailor and the details forwarded to your store. Be sure to check in with your groomsmen periodically to ensure that everyone is on schedule with alterations.

The groom, like the bride, has the option of purchasing, renting or having wedding-day attire tailor made. If your work calls for it, purchasing a tux or a suit is a good investment and can be worn over and over again. Rented formal wear usually includes a jacket, vest, shirt, neckwear, cufflinks, pants and shoes.

Feel free to have some fun with your attire. You can set yourself apart with a different vest and tie color, brightly colored socks, or shoes that show off your personality.

Remember to recognize the importance of the day and know there are options to fit your style.





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UNITY SYMBOLS

Wine Blend

While the bride pours a white wine, the groom pours a red – making a unique blush wine that can be enjoyed after the wedding day.

Sand Ceremony

Two smaller vessels filled with different colored sand pour into a central vessel – blending the colors together.

Cord of Three Strands

The bride and groom braid three stands together symbolizing the union of God, husband and wife. While the couple is braiding, someone else reads the coordinating verse from Ecclesiastes 4:12: "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

A Box and Love Letters

Place love letters into a box and nail it shut during the ceremony. When things get tough, open the box and read your love letters to each other.

AVOID DISASTER

Take religious restrictions seriously.
To avoid any day-of disasters, be sure to meet with your officiant one to two months within getting engaged.

Your ceremony venue may have a set of rules such as: premarital counseling, reciting written vows, attire and music restrictions.

Ceremony



Our ceremony is the start of something beautiful. It not only kicks off the biggest party of your life, once you say "I do," but it also ignites a new adventure for you and your soon-to-be spouse – no matter how long you have been together. Here are some details to think about while planning the perfect beginning.

OFFICIANT OR CLERGY

First, discuss your beliefs with your fiancé to ensure that the ceremony is meaningful to both of you. If you follow a particular faith, you and your partner may want to consider a religious ceremony in a house of worship, church or temple. The other option would be a civil ceremony (in accordance with state laws) that has a judge, justice of the peace, county clerk or officiant to solemnize your nuptials.

TIP
Find more
wedding
preparation
tips and ideas
at Black Hills
Bride online.

Once you both decide what kind of ceremony you would like to have, make a list and start meeting with officiants and pastors. Look for the perfect person to solemnize your wedding, making sure your personalities, values and beliefs blend well together.

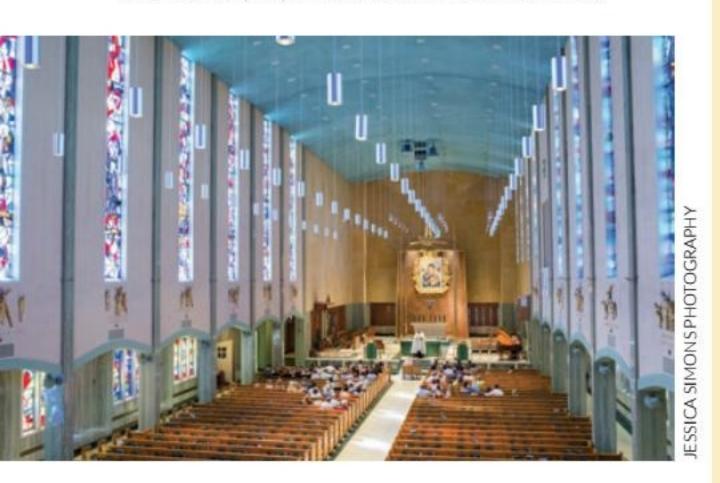
After deciding on your officiant, ask for help in creating the type of ceremony you would like to have – a service unique to you and your spouse. For instance, a casual, outdoor wedding might require different components than a formal, religious ceremony in a church.

PREPARING FOR FOREVER

Your wedding preparations should also include preparing for a lifetime together. Premarital counseling and education has proven to significantly reduce the divorce rate (30-40%) and increase the quality of your intimate relationship. Boost your success not only for your wedding day, but also for all of your days ahead with a strong foundation.

Get the most from premarital counseling with a program that covers effective communication, barriers in your relationship and successfully easing tension with conflict management.

Counseling will also help you understand each of your histories and how to work with them towards health and healing. Work through money matters and leisure time, as well as sexuality and intimacy myths and truths. You'll learn how





WHAT TO ASK:

- Are you available on my wedding date?
 What time?
- · How much do you charge?
- · Are there extra fees for travel?
- How long have you been performing weddings?
- · What are your credentials?
- How long is your average wedding ceremony?
- Can we write our own vows? If so, will you help us create them?
- Will you give a sermon or a speech?
 Can we see it beforehand?
- Can you give us an overview of the service?
- Do you have any restrictions we should know about?
- Will you perform the ceremony outside?
- Will you attend the rehearsal?
- Will you be joining us at the reception?
- What is expected of us in terms of pre-marital classes?
- How many pre-wedding meetings will we have with you?

CHUTIN FLICKS PHOTOGRAPHY

Premarital care strengthens your relationship by educating, preparing and investigating the needs and assets of the relationship. The process works to identify differences and gives tools for successfully relating to each other when the road gets a little bumpy. Although there may be hesitation at the beginning when mentioning counseling, it is a step in your wedding planning that you will be glad you chose to take part in.

VOWS THAT WOW

Your vows are not something that you recite and repeat at your ceremony. This is the most important promise you'll ever make to each other, so it should reflect your feelings and beliefs. Traditional vows have been repeated for centuries and give some couples a sense of permanence after reciting them.

An alternative is creating your own. Before you opt for this approach to vows, check with your officiant to see if they are okay with it. Once you've got the thumbs-up, begin by looking for inspiration and settling on a format and tone with your fiancé. Then, write it all out – including moments from your relationship and promises you will make to your partner for the new adventure ahead. [BHB]

READINGS TO REMEMBER

Many couples choose to have a scripture passage or quotes read at their ceremony. Here are some ideas that are sure to leave your guests inspired.

"But 'God made them male and female' from the beginning of creation. 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together." Mark 10:6–9 (NLT)

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

1 Cor. 13:4-7 (NIV)



Blessing of the Hands

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you, that are holding yours on your wedding day, as you promise to love each other today, tomorrow, and forever.

These are the hands that will work alongside yours, as together you build your future.

These are the hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch, will comfort you like no other.

These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief fills your mind.

These are the hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow, and tears of joy.

These are the hands that will tenderly hold your children.

These are the hands that will help you to hold your family as one.

These are the hands that will give you strength when you need it.

And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged, will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

-author unknown



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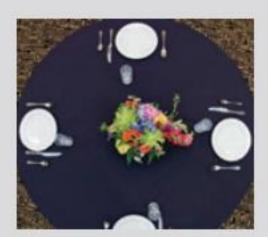
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THE OPTIONS

The Basics

- Chairs
- Chair covers
- Tables
- Linens
- Drinkware
- Flatware
- · Drink fountain
- Coffee percolator
- Cake stand

The Site

- Tent
- Dance floor
- Lighting
- Draping
- Portable bar
- A/V equipment

The Décor

- Centerpieces
- Arches
- Aisle runner
- Backdrops
- Garland
- Candles
- Greenery
- Lanterns
- Signage
- Baskets

The Details

- Portable washroom
- Ladders
- Dolly / Carts

YOUR RENTAL BUDGET

The summer months
(May through August)
and early fall (September
and October) are peak
wedding months for
many vendors. Prices
could be higher and
availability of certain
products may be limited.

Talk to your rental vendors six to nine months beforehand to book key products. Then, make your final tweaks three to four weeks before the big day.





eautifully decorated weddings require creative talent, many hours and an extensive inventory of items. Hiring a professional is a wise investment you won't regret. Many brides underestimate what's involved in the decorating process – the time researching, gathering the items, setting them up and then tearing them down. Décor professionals will help you to avoid the frustration of producing your dream wedding on your own.

TIP Rental vendors know which pieces will work well in which kinds of situations. Don't be afraid to trust them!

NAME YOUR STYLE AND THEME

A theme is usually a phrase like "vintage glam" or "rustic chic" that will sum up the overall feel of your wedding day. It's important to select your theme along with colors and style before you get started, as it will extend to every detail of the day, including venue, attire, and more.

GET CREATIVE

This is your big day, and making your venue uniquely yours is important. A growing trend in many weddings is to post special messages to guests on chalkboards. These signs help to spread the word about where to sit, hashtags and where things are happening without having to make an announcement. Instead of trying to learn to chalk, hire an artist who creates gorgeous displays that your guests are sure to recognize.

RENT THE SCENE

Some ceremony and reception sites will require that you rent equipment from an outside source, which can turn any setting into something spectacular. Be sure to have a guest-count estimate for the quantity of items you will need to reserve before talking to your vendor and be ready to place a deposit for your pieces.

Many businesses will have a wide section of accessories to rent including arches, chair covers, aisle runners and more. Some vendors will have specific items like tables or portable restrooms.

GET IT IN WRITING

Once you have decided to work with a particular vendor, sign a detailed, written contract that covers all dates and times. Be aware of your responsibilities and your vendor's duties for your wedding day, and reconfirm your arrangements several weeks before your wedding. [BHB]





WHAT TO ASK:

- Do you have a list of products you offer?
- · Are you licensed and insured?
- What gratuity and sales tax will be added to these fees?
- When are the deposit and payment due?
- What is the cancellation policy?
- Do you have any referrals for vendors?
- · Do you provide site diagramming with your service?
- Have you decorated/set up at my venue before?
- What are your costs for delivery? Are there additional fees for special delivery requirements?
- Are you available to set up? What is the fee?
- · If outside, can you suggest a weather back-up plan?
- Do you handle relevant permits if needed?
- What is the return policy after our event? Is there a timeline?
- What is our responsibilty for returning items?
- What are the costs and details in case any items are lost or broken?





Custom Event Design





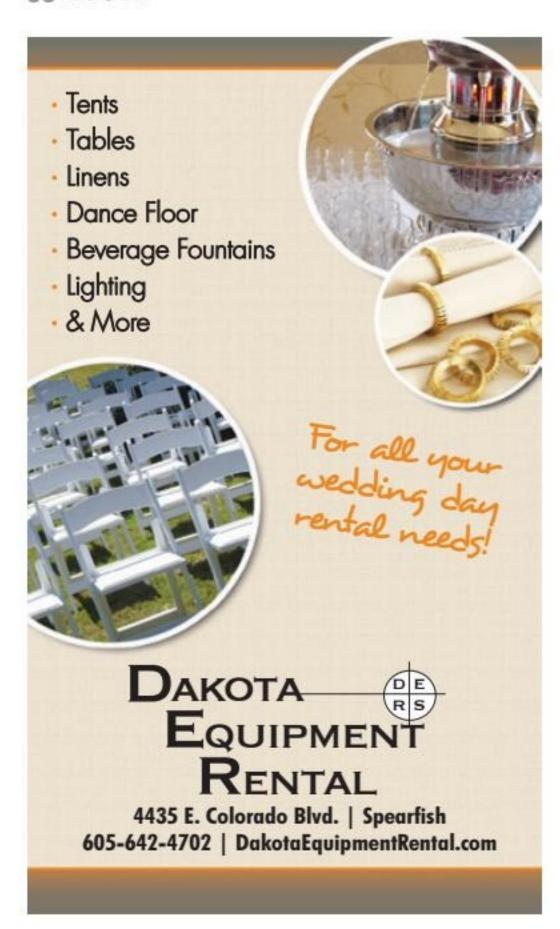




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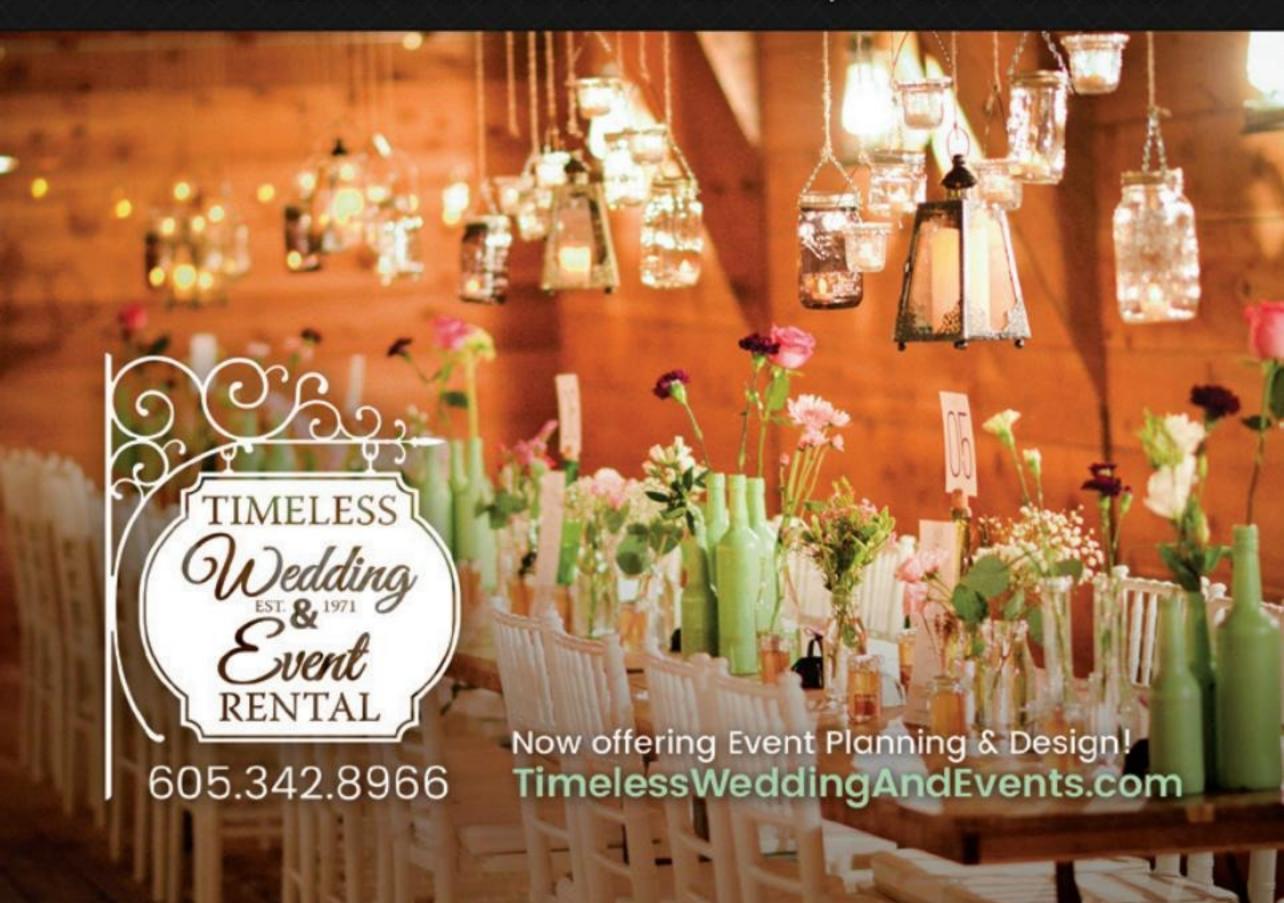


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TERMS TO KNOW

Cascade

A waterfall effect, where blooms spill from one handheld base.

Hand-Tied

A larger bouquet of assorted flowers in a loosely gathered design.

Nosegay

This is a small, hand-held bouquet of fragrant flowers and foliage.

Pageant

Long-stemmed flowers the bride carries cradled in her arm.

Pomander

A bloom-covered ball that is usually four to six inches in diameter and suspended from a ribbon.

Remembrance

Bouquet in memory of a lost loved one or family member who may not be able to attend the wedding celebration.

Boutonnières

Small arrangements the men will wear.

KNOW YOUR STYLE

Prepare for your floral consultation with a professional vendor by listing your chosen wedding color palette and special touches like monograms and themes you want to incorporate into your flowers.

The atmosphere of the ceremony venue may have a big impact on your floral design (i.e.: rustic, modern, elegant).

Flowers



fter you have secured a venue and know the theme of your wedding day, it's time to book your florist. Flowers are more than a bouquet and boutonnière; they add personality to your event, bringing your celebration to the next level. Here are some of the details to pin down for a productive meeting.

WEDDING SIZE AND BUDGET

If you have no idea how to come up with a budget for flowers, then start out with 8-10% of the overall budget. You can always allocate more if you are using large quantities of flowers for aisles and centerpieces. Figuring out how many bouquets and boutonnières are needed for the bridal party, plus how many table arrangements you will need for guest seating, will also help to determine your floral budget allocation.

TIP
Have one floral
arrangement
that breaks
apart into
three when
thrown for your
bouquet toss.

With that figure, your floral designer can guide you toward the types of flowers and designs that will help you to stay within or close to that amount. Keep in mind that most flowers can be ordered any time of year, but flowers and greenery that are in season will generally be a less-expensive option.

FLOWER TYPES AND VISUAL AIDS

Are there any specific flowers or a design you know you like and just have to have? Bring in photos of the styles you like so as to help communicate your ideas. Not that you want an exact replica, but you may love one example for the shape of the bouquet, another for the type of flowers or the elements used, and yet another for the color scheme.

Flowers are seasonal, so keep in mind that what you want may not necessarily be available or cost effective. Lastly, it's a good idea to note any flower allergies that you or your groom might have and share them with the floral designer to avoid any untimely sneezes.

DESCRIPTIVE WORDS

Along with the photos, decide on a few descriptive words to help express the style you have in mind. Try to use meaningful words like formal, vintage, rustic, casual and glam, while avoiding basic words like elegant or simple, unless that is really what you mean. When choosing





WHAT TO ASK:

- · Do you have my date open?
- How many weddings or events will you schedule in the same day?
- What flowers are in season for the month we're getting married?
- What can you suggest to tie in my bouquet with the boutonnières, bridesmaid flowers and centerpieces?
- · If I have a photo of a bouget I like, are you able to recreate it?
- · Will you work with my cake designer if I decide to have flowers on my cake, too?
- How far in advance of the wedding will you create the bouquets and arrangements? How are they stored?
- · Will you preserve my bouquet after the wedding?
- Do you deliver? What are your fees?
- How far in advance do I need to place my order with you?
- What is the deposit required to secure my date?
- · What is your cancellation policy?







descriptive words, think about how you would describe your gown, venues, or wedding theme.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Complement your dress, personality and proportions when choosing your bridal bouquet. Here are some basic considerations to factor in before making your final choice.

All-white bouquets are the most traditional choice for brides, while the use of color in a bridal bouquet is a beautiful way to express individual personality. Consider using accent flowers in your different weddxing colors, or just something bright and fun.

Sometimes the scale of your gown can be a guide to the size of the bouquet. A common rule is the bigger the gown, the bigger the bouquet. A simple sheath gown may not be able to hold its own against an overflowing cascade bouquet; however, a ball gown can handle the volume.

Consider any embellishments on the front of the dress; you won't want to obscure the beautiful beading or lace with a large bouquet. When you meet with your floral designer, bring a photo of your gown and ask for suggestions that take into consideration the style and shape of bouquet that's right for you.

THE AGREEMENT DETAILS

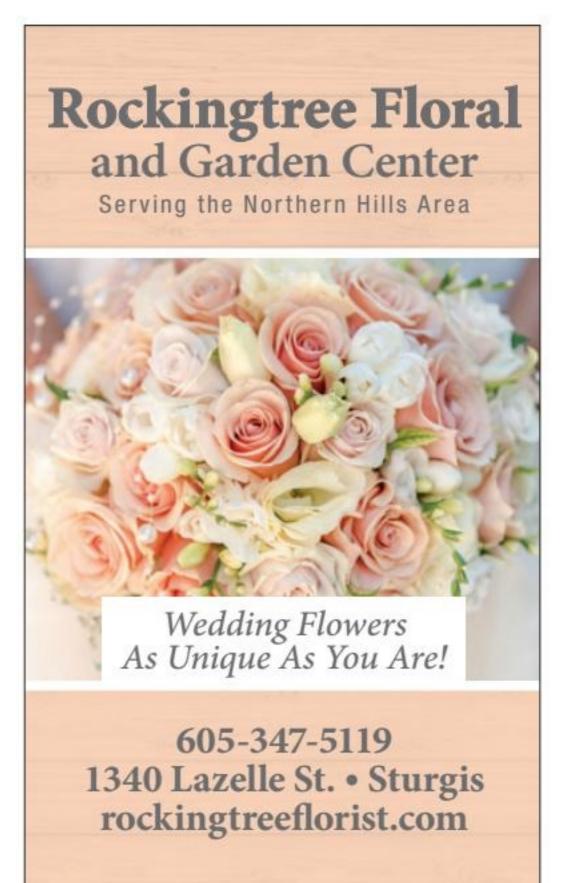
Thoroughly discuss your ideas, share your photos and descriptive words, and then give creative control and trust to your designer. A good florist thrives on having the blessing of doing what is best for the look of the arrangement. Keep in mind, they are working with a natural product. Floral pieces may come in different colors, sizes and shapes than planned. Try to be as flexible as possible and believe the floral designer has the best intentions at heart.

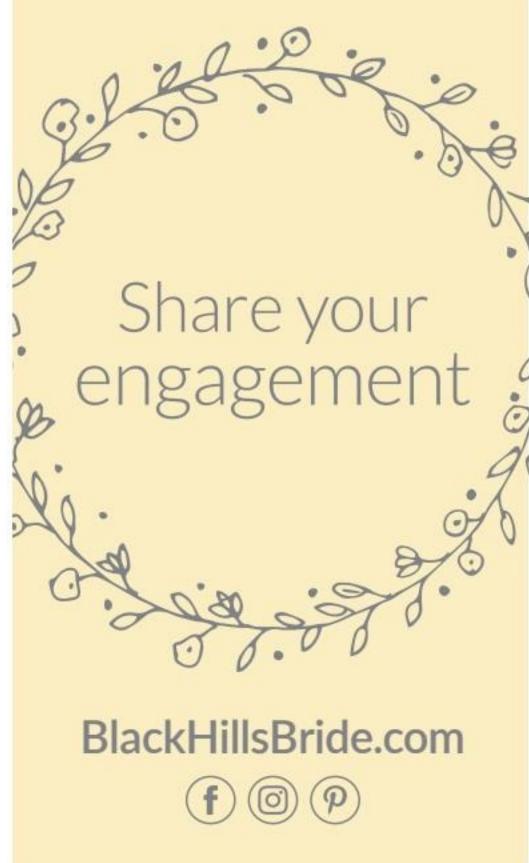
At the end of the consultation, or shortly thereafter, you should receive a quote of costs. This is not set in stone and nothing is ordered until the contract is signed, so if you want to expand and make something greater, then just let your florist know as soon as possible.

Although your flowers will not need to be ordered until a few months before your wedding date, six months is a good timeline to choose your floral vendor and get on the schedule – no matter the size or complexity of the floral designs you may choose. [BHB]

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SETTING YOUR SITES

Discover your theme.

The various types of venues are endless, ranging from a hotel ballroom with stunning interior design to rustic-chic vineyards.

Form a search strategy.

Browse through this magazine and use our website to find local venues for your vision.

Have a phone interview.

Ask a few basic questions about your date, prices and guest list. If a venue fits your inital criteria, then book a tour of the site. If you are using a wedding consultant, then go together.

Inspect the venue.

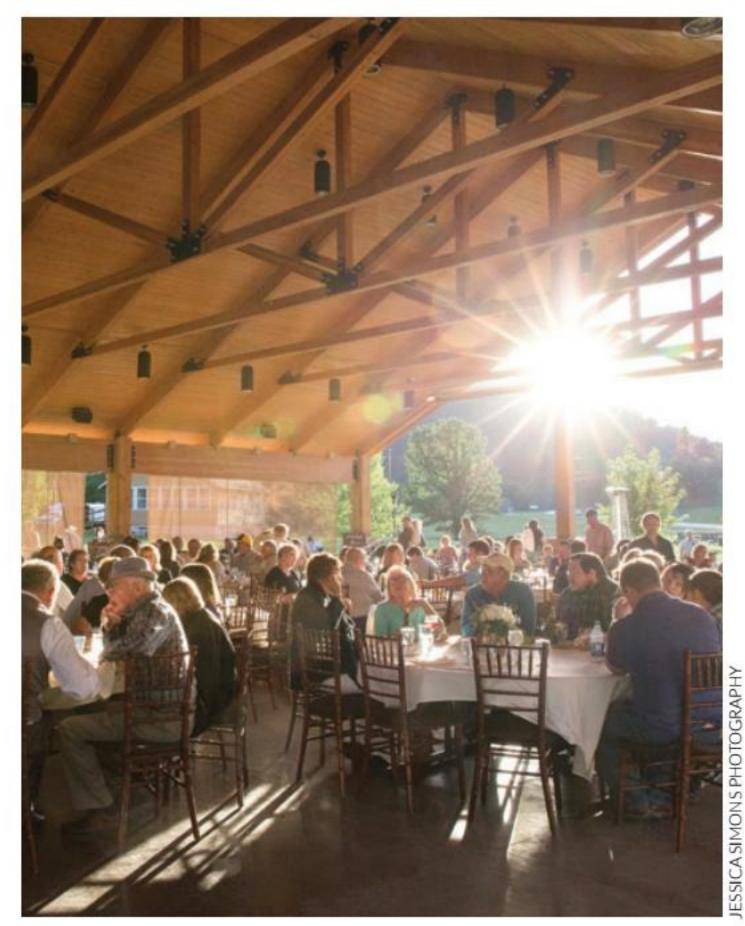
You will want to meet the staff and spend ample time touring the entire facility to ensure that the site's ambiance will complement the style you have envisioned for your big day. Don't be afraid to ask questions!

BOOKING YOUR VENUE

When you have your heart set on a particular venue, you should book it one to two years in advance. If you are flexible on your site – six months to one year ahead is usually sufficient.

Remember, Saturday nights and summer holiday weekends are popular for wedding dates and fill up fast. If you're interested in these times for your celebration, book your venue immediately.

Reception



here to hold your wedding reception is a big decision. Not only does the venue make up a large portion of your budget, but also it sets the scene for your celebration of a lifetime. To help narrow down options, it's best to have a plan.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Start by creating your vision. Whether it's from all the pins you've gathered or photos you've seen in magazines, you will start to see a theme appear. From rustic settings with old-time charm to large event spaces that have a contemporary feel, your options of venue styles have limitless opportunity.

Next, it's time to talk about the other "m" word – money. As hard as this may be, it is important to allocate your funds before starting

TIP
Most venues
require a
deposit and
will need the
balance paid at
least one week
in advance of
the celebration.

your wedding arrangements. Although it is a large portion of your budget, you won't want to spend every penny on your venue to find out that you can't afford your ideal DJ. Review our budget basics in the back of this book to get started.

BEFORE YOU CALL

Have an idea of your guest-list numbers. No, this doesn't have to be the final, set-in-stone list but it does give you a good idea of how many people you will need to fit into your venue. Sites have maximum capacities; having an estimate of the quantity of guests will allow you to narrow down your list right off the bat.

You'll also want to have a time frame in mind, as well. The best suggestion is to start with a season of the year and then pick three dates that work for you, your fiancé and close family and friends involved in the wedding. By having more than one date to choose from, you will be more flexible for venue availability and work schedules.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

When you are ready to sign on the dotted line, be sure to negotiate your contract. When discussing costs, especially for food and beverages, make sure to get the price inclusive of tax and gratuity. All details of your reception should be written in a contract signed by you and the venue representative. [BHB]



JENNI HAHN PHOTOGRAPH)



WHAT TO ASK:

- · What is included in the price? Are there overtime charges?
- · What are the gratuity and sales tax to be added to these fees?
- When are the deposit and payment due?
- · What is the cancellation policy?
- · Are there reduced rates for off-season, off-hours, or off-days?
- · Are we able to hold the ceremony at the venue? Is there a fee?
- · Does the facility provide security and additional staff, if needed?
- What are the fees to decorate the reception site?
- Can we decorate the venue ourselves? If so, when are we allowed to set up? What is the tear-down deadline?
- Where can our guests park? Are there extra fees? Is there valet parking?
- Is there a list of approved vendors? Do you allow outside catering?
- Can alcohol be served?
- · Can we bring our own liquor?
- · Where can the DJ and dance floor be set up at the site?
- · Are the dance floor, lighting, and sound included in the fee or available to rent?
- Are there enough electrical outlets?
- How late can the DJ play music?
- Are there volume restrictions?
- Are we responsible for any additional event insurance?

The Flow of Events

After the ceremony, your photographer will finish taking photographs and you will take a limousine ride. During this time, serve your guests appetizers and drinks, and have your DJ or musicians play soft background music as everyone waits for the wedding party to arrive.

The Master of Ceremonies (MC) announces that dinner will be served soon and asks your guests to be seated. The MC (usually your DJ) introduces the bridal party as they enter the room. Be sure to plan the path between the banquet tables, so you can easily get to your table.

The bride's father will make a short speech to the couple, as well as welcoming and thanking everyone for coming to celebrate.

The officiant blesses the meal and the food service begins. Each table will move through the buffet line or will be served by wait staff. Having chat topics placed at each table is a good way to get your guests to mingle while they wait to be served.

The maid of honor and the best man present toasts to the newly married couple. Additional speeches and stories can be told during and after dinner by others.

At the planned time, the MC will announce the cake cutting. You and your groom complete the ceremonial cutting of the cake, and the MC will announce the couple's first dance.



The couple's first dance may be followed by fatherdaughter, mother-son, and other special dances. Then, the floor is opened for everyone.

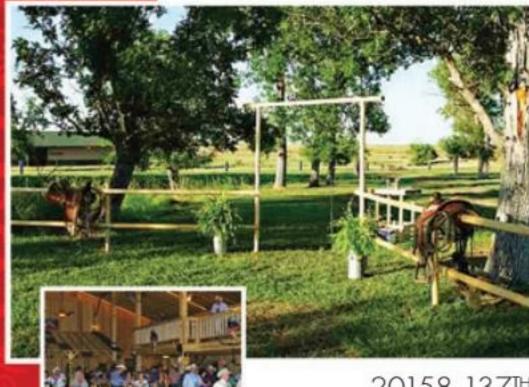
Gather all the single guests in attendance for the last events of the night - the bride's bouquet toss and groom's garter throw.

Remarks by the bride and groom are left until last, before the grand exit. Though not necessary, some brides and grooms like to take this time to thank their parents, guests and anyone who helped make their wedding day possible.



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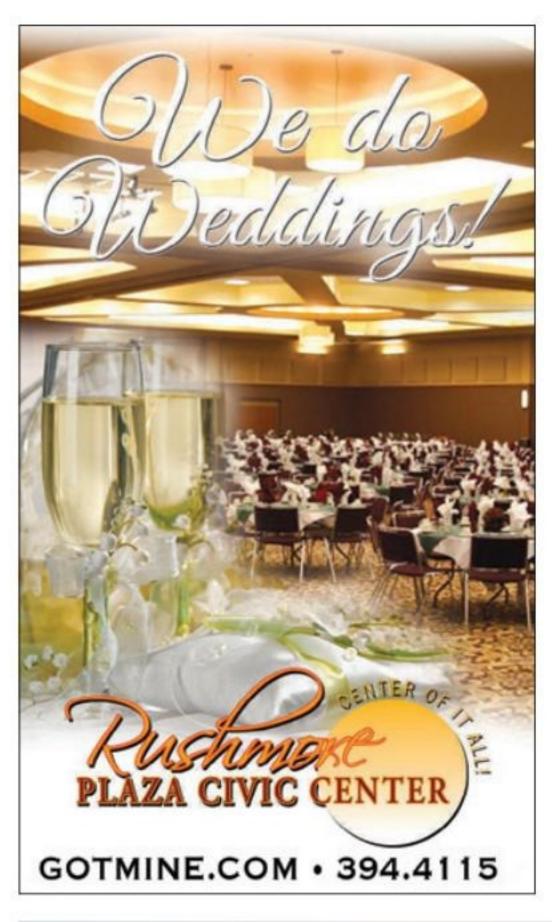






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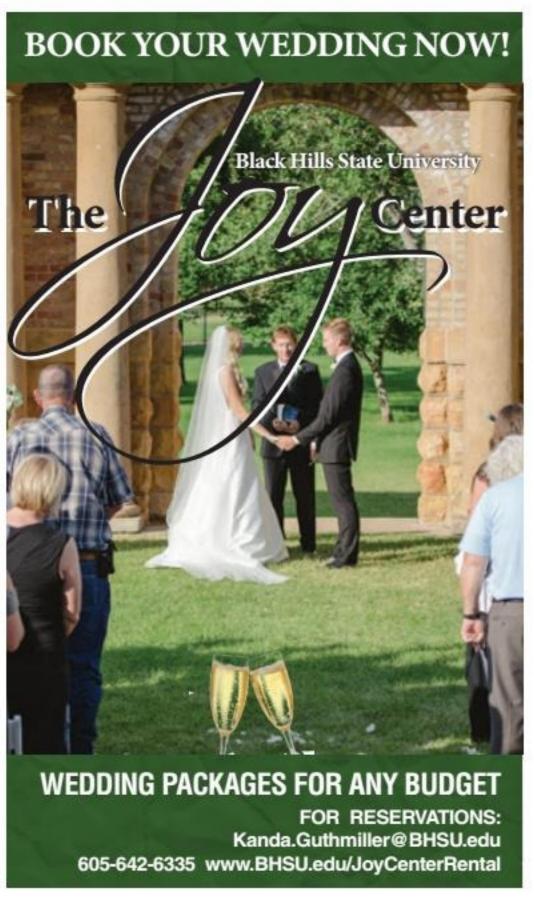
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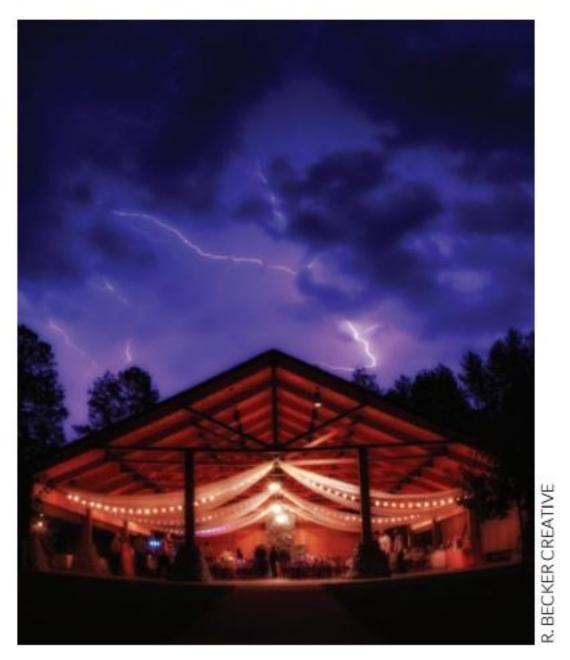
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Weather What-Ifs

Planning an event (especially outdoors) is a big task. Try the following tips, and whether the weather is perfect or not, you will be ready.

RAIN

Take a practice walk to see if your shoes are going to stick into the ground or slip and slide. Consider purchasing umbrellas for each of your guests to use, or send out a message asking guests to come prepared for the weather.

COLD

Have your bridesmaids wear a wrap, shrug or cape to keep the shivers under control during the ceremony. You can also look into renting space heaters for the reception venue.

WIND

If you are using candles at your ceremony, try placing glass covers over the flames to keep them burning strong. Tack down any flowy curtains or other loose materials to prevent them from blowing away. Don't forget to secure your hair with setting spray to ensure flawless hair in the breeze.

HEAT

You want your guests' hearts to melt, not the frosting on your cake. If your wedding day is projected to be a scorcher, talk to your baker in advance. You can also provide your guests with paper fans to keep cool.



Rehearsal Dinner * Bridal Shower * Outside Courtyard

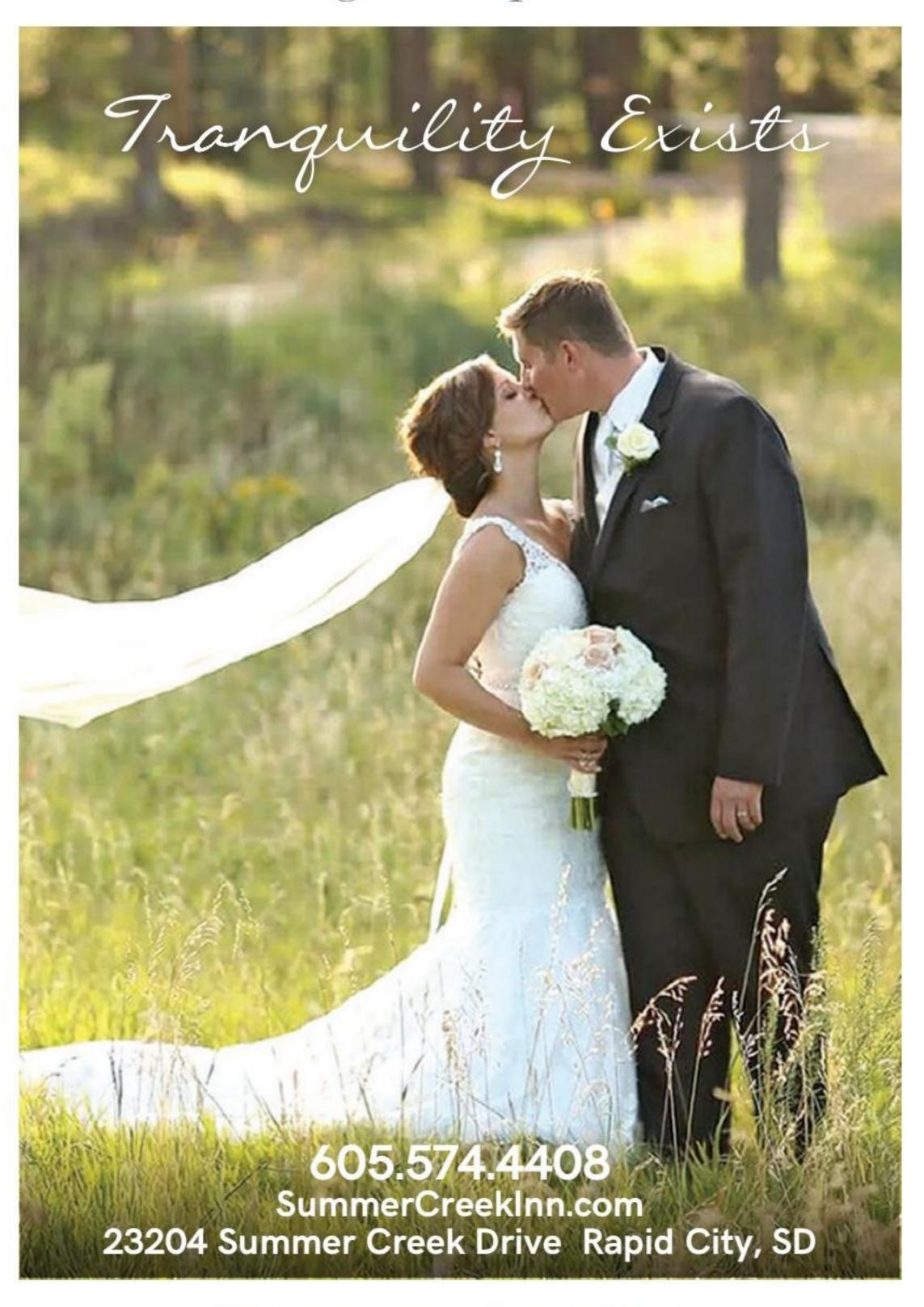
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WHAT TO ASK:

- · Do I need to host my wedding here to book a block of rooms?
- · How many rooms can we hold? Is there a minimum?
- · Is it possible to block my guests' rooms next to each other?
- · Is there a time frame to book the rooms in the block?
- · Will reservations be accepted after the cutoff date at a discount, if there is availability?
- What is included in the rates?
- Is there a bridal suite? Is it available on my date?
- Is there a fee for the rooms not booked?
- Is there a minimum number of nights?
- · How will you let me know who has reserved rooms?
- Will I be working with one person for my event's room block?
- · Is there a fee for parking?
- · Does your facility offer a shuttle to and from the airport?
- · What are the check-in and check-out times?
- Will guests have a choice of a single or double room?
- · Can we access the rooms prior to our guests' arrival to distribute welcome bags? Can we leave them at the front desk for our guests at check-in?

Welcome Your Visiting Guests

Sometime between making your guest list and ordering your invitations, you will need to make arrangements for your out-of-town guests. No, you won't need to foot the bill, but securing a couple hotels where your guests can choose to stay is a nice touch as they come to celebrate your wedding day.

When you are searching for the hotel, consider more than the price tag. Look at the hotel reviews, staff, amenities and the location in relation to your venue.

Most hotels will offer you a better rate if you are blocking a group of rooms. Include the hotel information and a "book-by" date on your invitations for your guests to refer to.

Have a welcome bag waiting for your guests when they arrive in their hotel rooms. Some things you may want to consider including in the package are simple things: toiletries, food items (especially locally made), mints and gum. Be sure to include a local tourism publication, maps and written directions to all events that guests are invited to attend. Having a list of close ATMs and gas stations is also a good addition.

While it's not necessarily expected, it is a nice gesture to invite guests who have made the journey to your wedding to attend the rehearsal dinner. For the day of your wedding, assign a friend (someone local) whom guests can contact should questions or needs arise.

Hospitality and generosity toward your wedding guests will go a long way to ensure your wedding is a weekend for everyone to remember.



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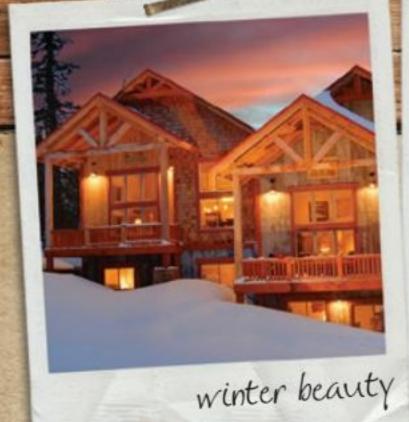




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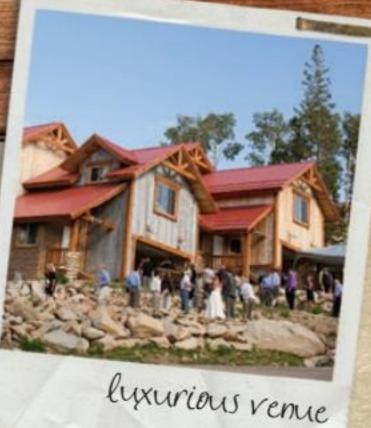
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dining room







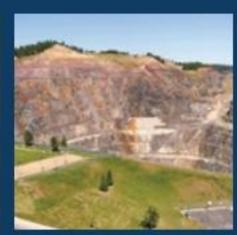
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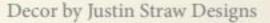
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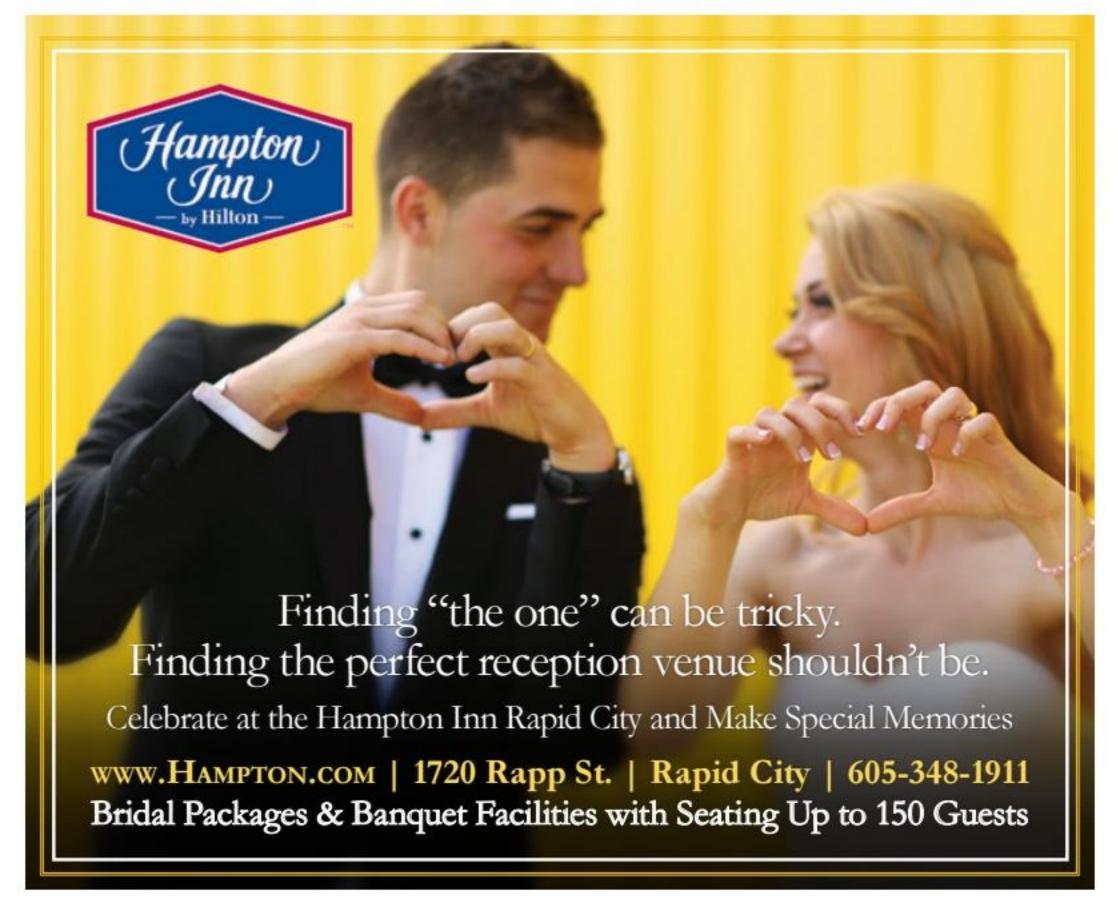
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THE OPTIONS

Horse-drawn Carriages

Take a page out of a fairy tale and arrive in a horse-drawn carriage. These romantic rides can typically accommodate between two and six passengers.

Vintage/Luxury Cars

Although you may immediately think of a Rolls Royce, consider cars that embody your personal style. Some couples may want a classic pickup truck or a vintage sports car.

Stretch Limousine/SUV

Take a classic approach to your arrival and exit and opt to ride with your wedding party to your locations. This ride will surely turn heads, and can fit six to ten passengers.

Party Buses

Start the party on the road! Hire a party bus, which can fit a substantial number of passengers and is often equipped with party lights and a great sound system.

HOW TO CHOOSE

If your ceremony and reception site are close to each other, a simple choice of transportation will be okay for the short time you are using it.

However, if you want to be chauffeured around, or you are going to be taking photos at another location before the reception, check out your options with all the bells and whistles for you and your wedding party.

Pransportation



ransportation is an important aspect of wedding arrangements that shouldn't be put on the back burner. From wedding party travel to shuttles for your guests - and, of course, your grand exit from the reception transportation plays a big role.

Include the cost of your ride in your overall wedding budget and research your local options early to ensure that your date will be available for the transportation service you choose.

After you have a pricepoint in place, take these ideas into consideration when booking your ride.

A RIDE FOR EVERYONE

Most couples will provide transportation for their wedding party and both sets of parents the day of the wedding - especially if they are not riding with you from your ceremony site.

TIP Book your ride six months in advance – especially if you are getting married during prom season or on a popular wedding day.

Typically, the best man is in charge of getting the groom and the other groomsmen to the ceremony site on time. After the ceremony, the groom will then join his bride on the way to the reception site, so as to arrive together.

If you have several out-of-town guests without their own transportation, consider providing a ride to get them to and from the ceremony and reception locations. Providing a shuttle service is a nice touch and ensures that they won't be late.

It's a good idea to have cab information or the same shuttle service available to your guests following the reception. This is especially true if alcohol has been served throughout your wedding-day celebration.

ASK QUESTIONS

Talk to several rental companies, and do not book a vehicle or carriage over the phone - ask to see it first to make sure it is what you are looking for. Find out how many people will fit in each vehicle, as it gets awkward and uncomfortable when 14 people from your wedding party squeeze into a vehicle meant for 10.

THE CONTRACT

Get a written contract outlining all of the details, including the specific vehicles for each purpose and all financial information, including rates, deposits, gratuities, taxes and any other fees. [BHB]



BLACK HILLS PORTRAIT



WHAT TO ASK:

- Do you have our date available?
- · Are you licensed and insured?
- · What are your rates? What is included (i.e.: mileage, gratuity, and even beverages)?
- · Do you offer any discounted rates for wedding packages?
- · When is the payment required?
- What are the features and benefits of each option of your service?
- Will the vehicle be cleaned beforehand?
- · Are we reserving the limo for just a few hours or for the day and/or evening?
- · Will the driver wait for the party through the duration of the event?
- When does the clock start?
- · When do the overtime charges begin?
- Do you have a backup vehicle available in case of a breakdown?
- · What are the features and benefits of each option of your service?
- Do you have a beverage license?
- · Are beverages included in the pricing?
- · How will the driver be dressed?
- Is the driver familiar with the area?
- Can we choose our own music? If so, how do we get you the playlist?
- What is your cancellation/refund policy?











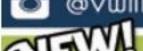
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THE OPTIONS

Buffets

Usually consisting of long tables laden with both hot and cold menu items, buffets give the newlyweds more time to mingle with guests.

Plated Service

Served individually by professional wait staff, plated meals are great for time-sensitive celebrations and tend to be more formal. Couples mistakenly believe this option to be expensive, but it will depend on what you decide to serve.

Food Stations

These serve-yourself stations are individual tables throughout the room grouped by cuisine keeping the pickiest eater content with options.

Family Style

For a warm, inviting atmosphere, this style centers around platters placed at each setting that are passed amongst those seated at the table.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

The caterer can help you determine the correct amount of food to order so you don't run out. It's better to have leftovers than to have some guests without food.

Discuss any special dietary needs such as: vegetarian, gluten or sugar-free, or food allergies. To avoid disappointment, schedule a time to test the meal options you decide on beforehand.

Catering



hat you will be serving is an important question to ask when you are choosing your meal. It's more than flavor; presentation and service are also big on the list to consider.

Having your meal catered by a professional assures the details will be taken care of and none of your guests will have to miss out on the party because they are stuck in the kitchen.

TIP

Use the time of your reception to narrow your choices. If the dinner will be served earlier, a lighter meal is adequate, while a full meal is more common later in the day.

ON-SITE OPTION OR HIRE YOUR OWN

The venue you select will have some impact on the caterer you choose, as some locations require you use their on-site catering service or work within their list of preferred vendors.

These vendors will typically include all of the china, flatware, glassware, service, clean up and gratuity in their catering price range.

A professional caterer will provide incomparable food with an excellent display. Services will usually include preparing the food, packaging it for wedding service, transporting it to the site, preparing the service table and provide staff for serving.

Before you choose your meal, do some research on a variety of vendors. Then, determine your preferences and set up an interview. While most caterers can offer a variety of cuisine, there are caterers who specialize in barbecue, ethnic cuisine or vegetarian menus.

CONSIDER THE EXTRAS

Is a beautiful banquet table presentation part of your vision? As you can imagine, the more complex the décor and presentation of the food, the more labor hours it will take to create. Increasing the food quality will also result in a higher per-person cost for your reception. If your budget is limited, determine your priorities and spend the bulk of your catering dollars in that area.

BOOKING YOUR CATERER

Complete a contract with the caterer that includes a listing of the foods selected, services to be provided and the cost. Know the number of servers that will be present, hours of service to be provided and arrival and departure times. Find out about all deadlines and due dates prior to your agreement for clear communication. [BHB]





WHAT TO ASK:

- Do you have my date available?
- What service costs are included?
- · How are gratuities figured?
- · How much time do you need for setup?
- · Do you set the tables?
- Have you done events at my venue before?
- Do you have a state Health Department license and liability insurance?
- · Will you be personally handling the meal service at my wedding?
- · What are your specialties?
- Are you willing to include a family recipe in the menu?
- Can we schedule a tasting of the menu we choose? What is the cost for this?
- What is your average cost per-person?
- Can you prepare special meal requests?
- · Do you charge a serving fee?
- · Do you provide beverage service?
- Do you have a liquor license?
- Is a drink included with meal service?
- What is the ratio of servers to guests and how will they be dressed?
- Do you provide or rent table items? If so, what is available?
- · Do you feed the DJ, Photographer and Band, or do I need to include them in count?
- Will there be a coffee and ice water station. or on the tables?
- What happens if additional guests show up who didn't RSVP?

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Your Wedding Menu

It's been said time and time again that in order to save money on reception food costs, brides on a budget should look to finger foods and hors d'oeuvres in lieu of a full dinner. But, according to some of our expert caterers in the area, this myth (and many others) may be a misconception. Here are a few common, budget-friendly reception menu myths debunked!

Finger foods will be cheaper than providing a dinner to my guests.

Creating perfectly designed hors d'oeuvres, or cutting up enough fruit and cheese to serve a crowd, can be infinitely more time consuming and tedious for a caterer than putting together a simple meal of an entrée, starch, vegetable and dinner roll.

Even in large quantities, most dinner components can be prepared in a single batch, whereas those adorable little crudités require someone to carefully stack and arrange them, one at a time.

Another thing to consider is whether your finger-food items are local, or if the caterer is going to have to order them. One of our caterers admitted there have been times she has paid more per pound for fruit than meat!

Beef will be too expensive.

It's commonly recommended to skip the beef and opt for "more affordable" chicken. However, many caterers can work wonders with different cuts of beef, making it a great alternative. You may have to forego the filet mignon, but a skirt steak cooked to perfection and served with a mouthwatering reduction sauce can be equally as impressive. Be sure to talk to your



caterer about all of the available options. You may be surprised!

A buffet will cost more than a plated dinner.

People have been trying to figure out the cost difference between these options for years. Many will say that over-purchasing food makes buffets more expensive. However, it truly is a toss-up, depending on your guest list and the vendor you choose.

Either a buffet-style meal or food stations can offer an impactful presentation for particular dishes that you won't get with a plated dinner. This choice also allows your guests more opportunities to mingle, and can make the experience more pleasant for picky eaters or guests with diet restrictions.

A plated service is great for making sure all guests get equal portions of the meal you've chosen. It also eliminates the need of renting more décor outside of the tablescapes you've created.

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"Smokin' Hot Expos"

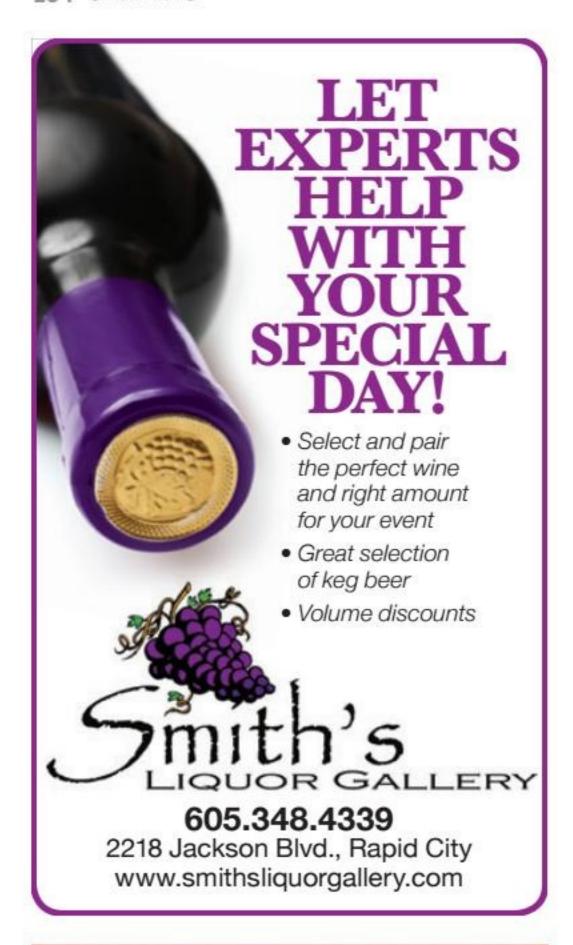
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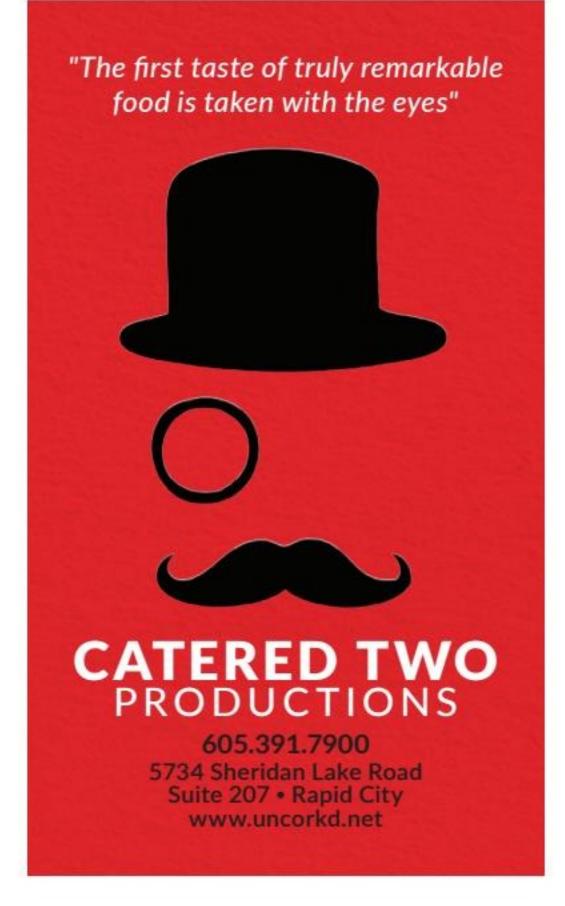
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Cheers To You

Most people associate weddings with champagne; its sparkling bubbles are the customary choice for toasts. But there are other drinks to consider for your big day, too.

Wines – both reds and whites – are great complements when creating the perfect meal. Look for at least one red wine and one white to serve at your celebration to fit your guests' palettes. Conventional wisdom says that whites go best with chicken and fish, while reds will pair nicely with meats.

Most venues offer bar service with a variety of spirits and beer options. Providing beer on tap for your guests is an acceptable alternative to an open bar. This can be a perfect compromise for both your guests and your wallet. Add locally brewed favorites for an additional twist.

A unique way to include a special memory is to create a signature cocktail to feature at your reception. It's another cost-effective alternative to an open bar. Since it's a mixed drink, it's less important to use top-shelf liquor and will require smaller amounts versus being served straight up.

There are multiple ways to add non-alcoholic drinks to your special day, too. Java lovers who want something different can set up a coffee bar with an array of flavored syrups and toppings like whipped cream and shaved chocolate. Guests will love it, especially if you are hosting your event in the winter months.





THINGS TO REMEMBER

Start from the bottom.

Traditionally, the bottom layer of cake is the one you will cut into. Order that layer in your favorite flavor for when you feed each other a little bite.

Talk out the details.

Some couples will shove cake in each other's faces, while other couples will want to take a more tame approach. Ask your fiancé which he prefers.

Plan your utensils.

Choose a keepsake knife and spatula to cut your wedding cake. This is a good opportunity to incorporate a treasured family heirloom.

Prep your guests.

Cake cutting is a traditional part of the wedding reception and something your guests will want to capture with a photo or video. Be sure to let your caterer, DJ and photographer know when you are cutting the cake, too.

IT'S TRADITION

Many couples choose to follow the age-old tradition of saving the first tier of their wedding cake for a firstanniversary celebration.

If you decide to opt in on the tradition, you will want to remove all of the garnishes and décor from the tier. Then, be sure to wrap the cake tightly with plastic and seal it in an airtight container before placing it in the freezer for keeping.

Cakes



hoosing a cake starts by breaking the design into several basic categories.

Once you put the process into steps, it will make the task less stressful – and even fun! In the end, you will have a cake that is uniquely your own and will take your guests' breath away.

The number of wedding guests will define the cake size, as well as how many tiers it should have. Ask how many guests can be served per tier, figuring on one slice per guest. Wedding cakes also include an additional anniversary tier. Adding sheet cakes is an economical option and allows you to serve several flavors.

THE FLAVORS

Your wedding cake doesn't have to be white, unless of course it's your favorite. Doing a taste test as part of your research allows you

TIP
To ensure that your baker will have enough time to complete your design, talk to the vendor six months in advance.

to confidently decide on what kind of wedding cake you desire. Red velvet cake is popular, as is lemon or chocolate. With the incredible number of flavors and fillings, you can create some pretty spectacular combinations.

Once you have decided on the flavor of the cake, you will want to start thinking about frosting and fillings. If you need suggestions for the best flavor combinations, ask your baker to share the most frequently ordered flavors.

THE DESIGN

Your cake decorations can be as simple or as lavish as you want. Find images that demonstrate your ideas. Fresh flowers, greenery, fondant garnishes and piped designs are always popular, timeless options.

GROOM'S CAKE

Some brides choose to surprise their grooms with a themed cake incorporating one of his obsessions. Produce a fish-shaped cake, one with a sports theme or even one with an eight-point buck on it! This is your moment to get creative.

CAKE ALTERNATIVES

Options are endless when creating your sweettooth haven. Cupcakes and cake truffles are popular with couples that are looking for a non-traditional wedding dessert. Pies, donuts and cookies are popular options, too. [BHB]



ADEY REISNER WEDDINGS WHAT TO ASK:

- Do you have my date available?
- · Are you licensed and insured?
- How long have you been in business?
- How much is the deposit?
- What is the payment schedule?
- How many other weddings or events will you book on the same day?
- · Do you deliver? How far?
- Is there a delivery fee?
- · How large is a serving size?
- Will the cake deliverer or the florist put on the floral decorations?
- Do you set up the cake table?
- Who will be baking the cake?
- · Is the cake prepared fresh for the wedding day?
- What is your specialty style?
- · If we want to serve a cake and cupcakes, can you do both?
- · Do you have a portfolio we can select from?
- Are you able to create a custom design?
- Will you supply decorative cake knives?
- Do you provide cake toppers, stands, and tiers? What are the prices?
- · How far in advance do we need to place our order?
- Are we able to taste the flavors we are considering?
- What is your cancellation policy?



Terms to Know

Basketweave: This decorative frosting technique turns any cake or cupcake into a wicker basket design. It is a crosshatch pattern and can be achieved with fondant or buttercream.

Buttercream: A lasting wedding favorite made from butter, cream and eggs – buttercream does not lend itself well to sitting in the heat at outdoor wedding venues.

Custard: This is a mixture which is cooked into a creamy, pudding-like texture. Usually, it is used in cake fillings and can come in flavors such as vanilla or lemon.

Fondant: This versatile, sugary icing hardens over time and is great for decorative designs. It can be given a satin sheen and is very popular for its limitless possibilities. Usually there is buttercream or ganache underneath the fondant layer to keep it pliable.

Ganache: A cream sauce made from butter and chocolate. The frosting will melt quickly in warmer temperatures.

Gold Leaf: This edible gold decoration can be the perfect touch to your cake. Use it as an accent or to cover entire tiers.

Handpainted: This process is definitely for the professionals. Using tiny paint brushes and food coloring, patterns and designs are painted by hand onto the cake (usually fondant).

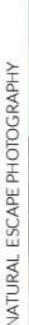
Molded: The cake is shaped to resemble a familiar object. These are most commonly used for the groom's cake.

Scalloped: This decorative touch makes the edges of the cake look curved to resemble the petals of a flower.

Swiss Dotted: Dots that look like beads are placed randomly over the cake.

Tier: Each level of the cake is called a tier, often supported by dowel rods or a cake stand.







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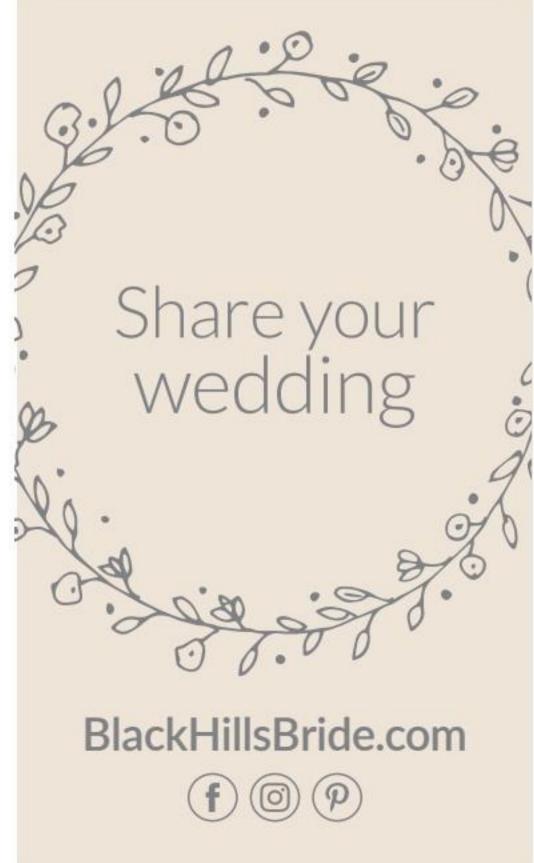
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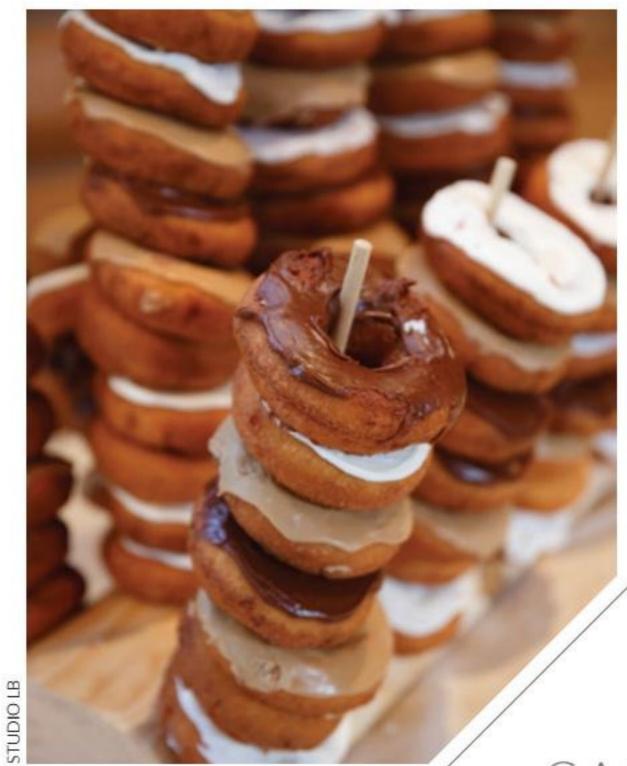
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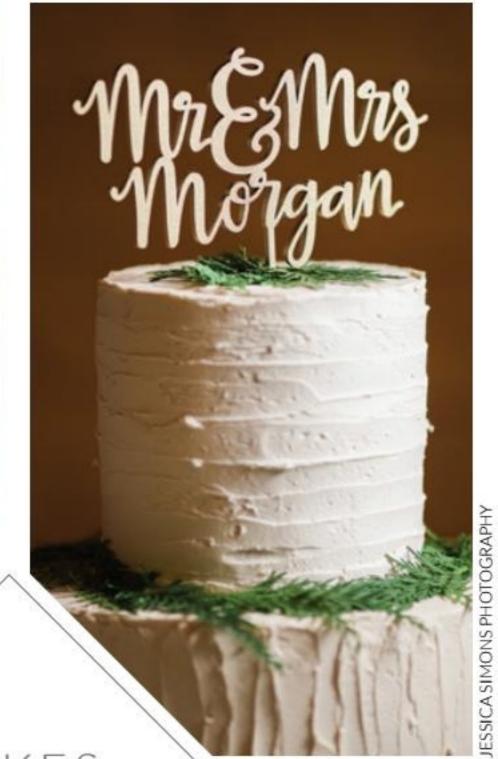


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CAKES



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MIST AND MOONLIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY

TIPS TO KNOW

Purchase the music.

If you are having a musician or a vocalist, be sure to purchase the sheet music for them to practice ahead of time.

Ask for a preview.

When you are looking for vocalists, bands or DJs – ask to attend a performance or view video links of demos of their style and sound.

Make a list.

Compile titles during different days, times and moods for a good variety of your favorite beats. However, the vendor you select is a professional and will have good insight into reading the crowd at your reception celebration.

Know your restrictions.

Your reception venue may have time or volume-level restrictions, as well as limited electrical usage. Address these issues before your wedding.

START THE DANCE

Well-known songs from top music charts and upbeat rhythms will get guests on the dance floor. Music that spans the decades and various genres will appeal to guests of all age groups.

Avoid songs that are extremely slow, mixes of beats or an odd rhythm count. If they are some of your favorite songs, ask the DJ or band to play them during the cocktail hour or during dinner.

Entertain



ou spend months making sure every little detail is set, and now it's time for a little fun. Music sets the tone for your wedding by elevating emotions, filling awkward silences and getting guests on the dance floor. Follow these tips and work closely with your musician or DJ to ensure an amazing celebration.

ON THE MIC

The best DJs for wedding reception entertainment have the ability to go with the flow and are quick on their feet. You will want yours to be flexible if any changes in your playlist or set-up arise.

If your DJ is acting as the master of ceremony, discuss his or her level of involvement and work closely with your vendor in planning to keep your reception on schedule.

If your vendor will play your ceremony's entrance music, ask him or her to attend the rehearsal to

practice timing

for both of you.

TIP

PLAYLIST VARIETY

After the formalities of the ceremony, you and your guests are ready to get the party started! Ask your DJ or band for a playlist so as to select songs you would like played at the reception. This is a great way for you to select specific dance music, rather than expecting the DJ to guess your preferred genre.

BOOKING A MUSICIAN

Live music at a wedding celebration is a great touch that can really personalize your event. Musical styles vary, so choose a performer that will best suit your occasion. Instrumentalists are a classical choice and bring a more traditional sound to the ceremony. Vocalists and small ensembles are another great option for the musical sound of your wedding.

Set up your entertainment's section in a location that works best for both you and them, but consider the sound of the performance in the location you choose.

Most musicians bring with them what they need to perform - they will simply need a place to sit at your venue. Still, it doesn't hurt to ask if they have any other needs, such as bottles of water or proximity to outlets.

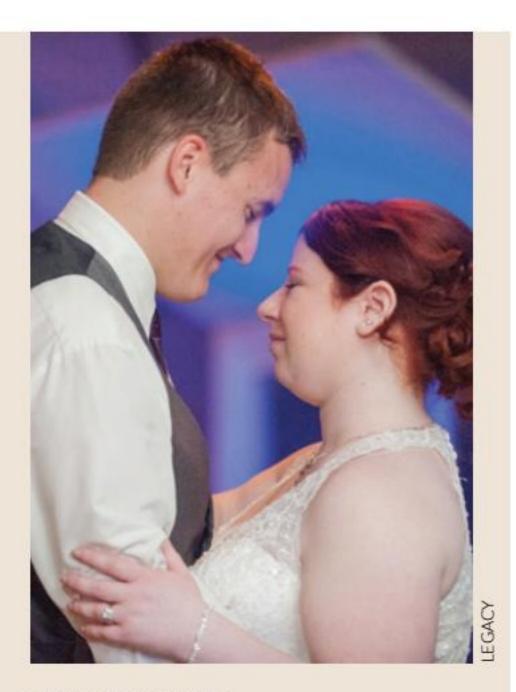
Professional DJs and musicians are knowledgeable and will have quality equipment, including a back-up system to avoid the chance that you could be without music. [BHB]





QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- · What type of music is your specialty?
- · Will you learn new pieces to perform?
- May I see/hear a performance?
- Can you provide ceremony music?
- Are you willing to be the announcer/MC at the reception?
- · Will you accept from us a playlist of songs to both play and avoid?
- · Will you accept special requests from our guests during the reception?
- · How many breaks do you require? What is the time length?
- Will you allow us to control the volume?
- · Have you performed at our venue? Do you require any amplification?
- Do you provide your own sound system/ equipment? If not, what will you need?
- How much space will you need?
- · What is the set-up time?
- What will the DJ or musicians be wearing?
- · If you cannot attend last minute, is there a back up DJ/musician lined up?
- Is there a time limit or minimum time the band or DJ will play?
- What is the payment schedule?
- What is your cancellation policy?



TERMS TO KNOW:

Pin Spot

A focused beam of light that shines directly onto an object, like a centerpiece or wedding cake, to create a highlight effect.

Color Wash

Basically a blanket of colored light covering an entire area to create a mood or to change the look of built-in décor.

Gobos

Circular stencils that are put over a light to project a design or pattern onto a wall, ceiling or floor. Monograms, dates and wedding motifs are popular gobo designs.

LED

Short for "light-emitting diode," LED lights use much less electricity than (and don't get as hot as) regular incandescent lightbulbs. They can also be wireless, which makes them even more discreet. LEDs are great for color changes and vibrant hues.

String Lighting

A strand of LED lights can create a magical effect (think Christmas or market lights). Installation can be labor-intensive, but the lighting itself is fairly budget-friendly.

Light the Night

Your ceremony or reception site may need a little (or a lot of) help to give it a look that will take your guest's breath away. Lighting will enhance the beauty of your event design and transform your space into a unique and flattering environment. Ask your wedding consultant, venue or DJ if this service is offered. Adding lighting design to your event will surely take it from ordinary to extraordinary.

Light decoration is an art form, and an experienced professional will know where to place the lights to create the effect you are looking for. These vendors can transform a room and make it magical by using personalized monograms, uplighting, lighted backdrops and so much more.

Opt for colors that accent skin tones: consider using softer lighting during dinner and darker shades during your dance. These subtle changes can smooth the transitions between cocktail hours, dinner and dancing.

Pay attention to where you can add some much-needed light to improve the space. Adding to your head table, the dance floor, your cake table and the caterer's set-up are always great ideas.

Check if your venue has dimmers, allowing the brightness to be adjusted. Make sure the venue has enough power to handle extra lighting. Blow a fuse and it is lights out!

Schedule a time to visit the venue to work out the technical details. Items such as windows and house-light locations will be factors for your lighting professional.

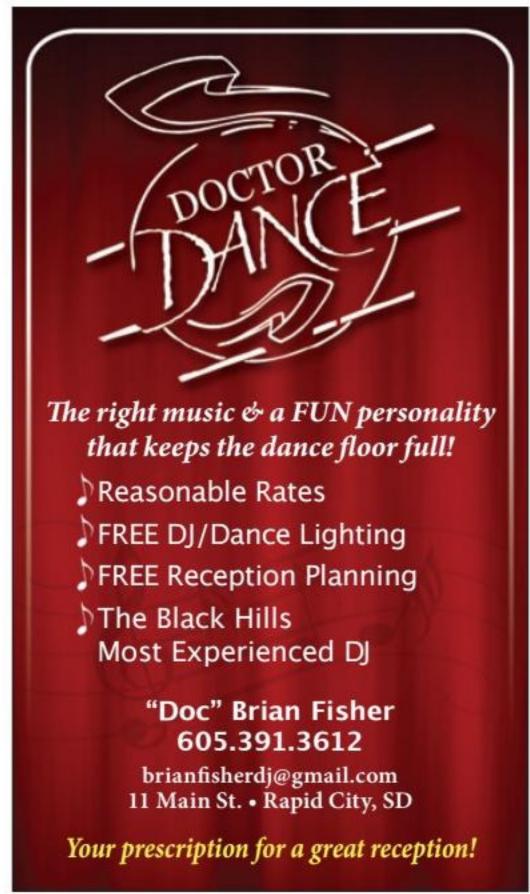


MIST AND MOONLIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY



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Reception Playlist

Here are some popular song options to get your guests on the dance floor.

"Marry You" by Bruno Mars

"Cha Cha Slide" by DJ Casper

"Brown Eyed Girl" by Van Morrison

"Shout" by The Isley Brothers

"Single Ladies (Put A Ring On It)" by Beyoncé

"Party Rock Anthem" by LMFAO

"Shut Up and Dace" by Walk the Moon

"Thinking Out Loud" by Ed Sheeran

"All Of Me" by John Legend

"Get Lucky" by Daft Punk

"This Is How We Do It" by Montell Jordan

"What Makes You Beautiful" by One Direction

"Thriller" by Michael Jackson

"Jump Around" by House of Pain

"Sweet Caroline" by Neil Diamond

"Wobble" by V.I.C.

"Uptown Funk" by Mark Ronson

"Don't Stop Believin" by Journey

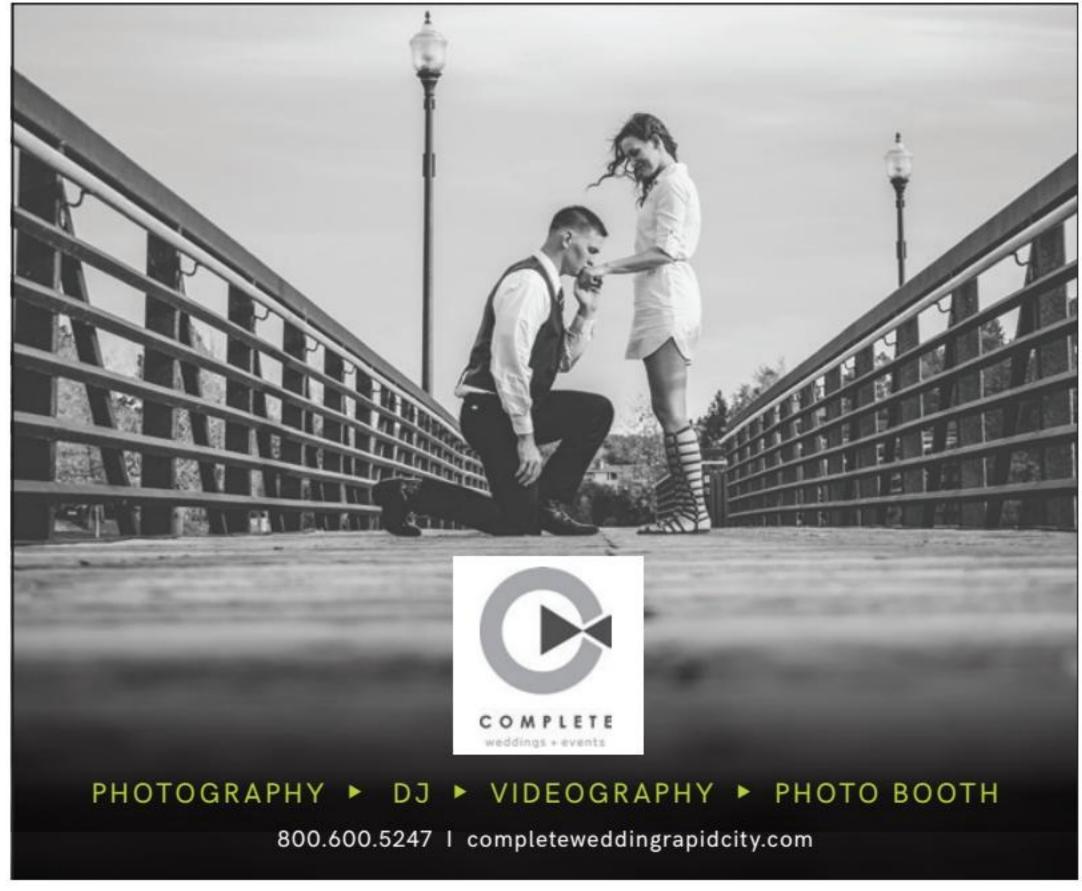
"Sweet Home Alabama" by Lynyrd Skynyrd

"Turn Down For What" by DJ Snake

"Yeah" by Usher

"Cheerleader" by Omi







QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- · Do you have my time available?
- · How long have you been in business?
- · How many hours are included in the rental fee?
- What is the payment schedule?
- · How much is the deposit?
- · What is included in the price?
- · How much space do you need for set-up?
- · Can you set up outdoors?
- · How long does set-up take?
- What does the booth look like?
- Can the booth fit multiple people at once?
- Do you provide an attendant?
- · Are you insured?
- What props and costumes are provided? Can I provide my own?
- Will I get a copy of all the photos taken at the event?
- Can you customize the photo strips to my wedding theme?
- · What is your cancellation policy?

Photo Booth

Capture the moments your guests enjoy at your wedding with a photo booth. Not only will you get to see all the fun your family and friends had on your big day, but also this unique form of entertainment will add instant fun for guests both young and old. Before you book with a professional vendor, here are some tips you may want to consider.

Check out the equipment. See what your vendor has to offer and test it out. You'll want to make sure that the cameras are working and determine how much space you'll need at your venue to give plenty of room for all the fun.

Add some props. The options are endless when you think of fun props! From cut-outs and chalkboard signs to hats, mustaches and glasses - props add an entirely new dynamic to the entertainment. Ask your vendor what is available, or add your own custom props that express your wedding day theme.

Dress up the strips. Many photo booth vendors allow the option to customize your photo strips from the booth. This makes a generic memento into a perfect wedding favor for family and friends to remember your big day. You can also arrange the strips into a scrapbook with signatures alongside for a unique guestbook.

If you are ready to step outside the box - or rather into one - then this is a great idea for your wedding reception entertainment. A photo booth is an amazingly fun way to ensure that all of your guests will walk away from your event with a smile and a memory they are sure to cherish for years to come. [BHB]



PROVET PHOTO BOOTH







Photo Expectations
Covering the Angles
The First Look
Social Etiquette
Photo Displays
Prints and Proofs
Love in Motion





PHOTO CHECKLIST

Getting Ready

- ☐ Bride's hair & make-up
- ☐ Bride & mother
- ☐ Groom
- ☐ Bridesmaids
- ☐ Groomsmen

Details

- ☐ Bride's dress
- ☐ Jewelry & accessories
- ☐ Groom's apparel
- ☐ Flowers
- ☐ Invitations & programs

Bridal Party

- ☐ The first look
- ☐ Bride only
- ☐ Bride & groom
- ☐ Groom only
- ☐ Bride with bridesmaids
- $\hfill\square$ Bride with groomsmen
- ☐ Groom with bridesmaids
- ☐ Groom with

groomsmen

Ceremony

- ☐ Guests
- ☐ Wedding party
- ☐ Flower girl(s)
- ☐ Ring bearer(s)
- ☐ Groom at the alter
- ☐ Bride walking down the aisle

More photo checklist items can be found on page 189.

TELL THE STORY

You will take a lot of things into consideration when you begin the search for a professional photographer for your wedding day.

In addition to looking at the lighting, the angles and the editing, select a photographer that is going to tell your story the way you want to remember it.

Photography



eddings are full of laughs, happy tears and memories you will treasure forever. Fortunately, the right wedding photographer can gorgeously preserve the entire event's happenings, the emotions of the day and the fun –which you will cherish. One perfect picture can instantly take you back to the happiest day of your life, and one perfect album of images can become your favorite coffee-table book.

Do not take a gamble; hire a professional photographer. Invest time in choosing a talented vendor who is a good match for you and your fiancé. Remember, price should not be your sole factor in hiring your photographer; the value of having top-quality pictures will be priceless. Here are simple tips for finding a professional who will capture the event perfectly.

TIP
Wedding
photographers
book fast. If you
have a certain
one in mind,
then call right
away as some
will book a year
in advance.

FIND YOUR STYLE

Determine the photographer's style - is it photojournalistic or traditional? Look through social media pages and websites for a sample of a photographer's work. Then, decide which style matches the look you're going for.

The photojournalistic style captures little moments, rather than poses, creating candid and spontaneous images that convey the genuine emotion of your day as it naturally unfolds. You will end up with a wide array of shots, some you may not have even witnessed, and they will serve as a record of the great time your guests had.

Traditional, formal photography refers to posed pictures. These usually consist of standard poses, such as the wedding party, the couples' families, the shots of the bridesmaids with their bouquets, the groom with his parents, and the happy couple gazing into each other's eyes.

Generally, most photographers will have a mix of both styles. Where they begin to differ lies in their editing techniques. Some professionals will apply basic retouches while others will place filters and color corrections on your images. Be sure to look at many galleries and choose the style you like best.

SHARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS

Open and clear communication is essential to getting the wedding photos you're counting on. Share your expectations, and never assume that



EY WINTER PHOTOGRAPH'



QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- · Do you have my date available?
- How far in advance do I need to book with you?
- How long have you been photographing weddings?
- · How many weddings do you shoot each season?
- · What is included in your pricing?
- · Do you charge for travel if my site is out of your area?
- · How much is the deposit?
- · Do you offer a payment plan?
- · How would you describe your style?
- Do you have a recent portfolio I can view?
- Am I able to give you a list of specific shots we would like?
- · What information do you need from me on our wedding day?
- Will you help us create a wedding day schedule?
- Are you going to be the photographer at my wedding?
- · Do you have a second shooter?
- What do you/your photographers wear?
- How long after the wedding will I get proofs? Will they be viewable online?
- · What is the ordering process? How long will it take to get them?
- What is your cancellation policy?



your photographer knows what you want. Vague terms, like "modern," "close-up" and "artistic" can mean very different things to a bride and her photographer. One way to be sure everyone is on the same page is to go through sample shots together, identify ones you like and explain why you chose those particular images. If you have certain images you want to

have taken, ask for them and create a shotlist with the vendor you have chosen. Talk with your photographer, and be honest about your expectations. Making a "must-have" list will help ensure that nothing is missed on your wedding day. When you are creating your shotlist, be realistic and understand the timetable you are giving to your photographer. Don't expect 20 different shots in a five-minute window.

COVERING ALL THE ANGLES

When looking through your options, consider a wedding package that includes a second photographer. Your photographer cannot be in more than one place at a time. A second camera will help capture all important moments from a different angle and will provide a backup to your main photographer.

At every stage of the day, it's wonderful to have two different perspectives of everything that happens. While one person photographs the bride throwing her bouquet, the second shooter can focus on all the ladies who are diving for it. While one takes family photos, the other can catch details at the reception. While one photographer captures you walking down the aisle, the other can capture your groom's expression as you meet each other at the alter.

An extra photographer provides backup to capture all of the moments constantly happening at weddings. These moments happen all night long. They can't all be caught, but with two photographers, the odds are pretty good that the big ones won't be missed. If a second shooter is in your budget, strongly consider it.

CREATE A SCHEDULE

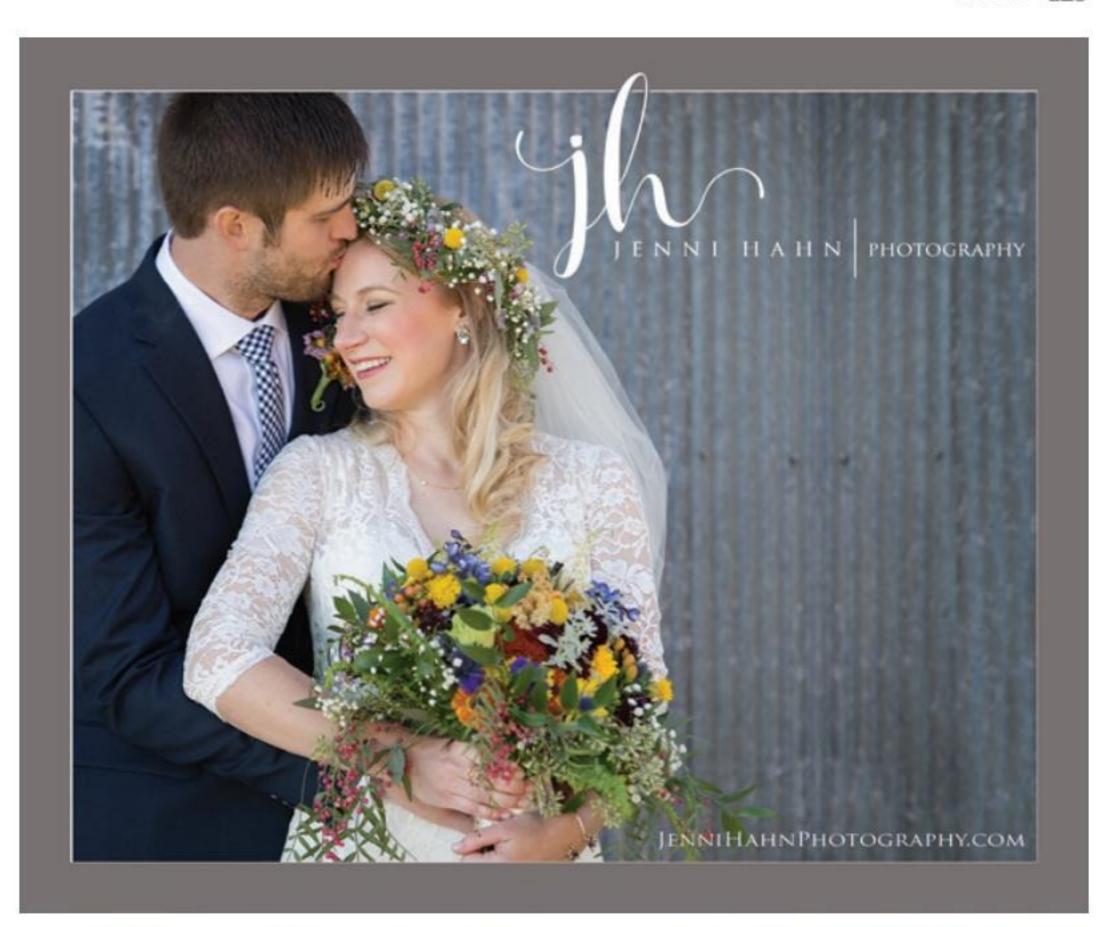
Your photographer can help you establish a wedding-day schedule, taking into account your photo shotlist. Instead of having the wedding party and family members milling around for several hours waiting for their photo op, give them the schedule showing when they need to be where. [BHB]







RILEY WINTER PHOTOGRAPHY







Choosing to have your photograph taken with each other before the ceremony gives you a more private moment and a longer time to be with just each other on the most important day of your lives. It is powerful when you see each other for the first time, and it is an important and emotional moment you will want to remember forever. Whether you choose before the ceremony, or after, set time in the schedule to capture those genuine moments. Go ahead and cry, kiss and admire each other; it's your time together.



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Plugged In...Or Not

THE GOOD

More candid shots

With social media continuing to rise in popularity, more couples face the decision to embrace it or eliminate it from their big day. One nice thing about plugged-in weddings is the array of candid shots. Allowing guests to photograph your wedding will give you access to all of the different angles of the experience – selfies included.

Sharing the love

When you give your guests the okay to take photos throughout your wedding day, you will be sure to see your own wedding flood your news feed. This allows guests who were unable to make it to your wedding to feel included by keeping them up to date with what's happening throughout the day. If you really want to hit trends, create a hashtag that is uniquely yours.

THE BAD

Guests won't be there

Well, they will be at your wedding, but their heads will be down, looking at their phones, choosing a perfect filter or scrolling through shots to make sure they got the photo they wanted. The focus will shift away from celebrating the commitment you and your fiancé are making to each other to guests' focusing on sharing the moment.

Phones are distracting

Have you ever been in a dimmed room and a phone lights up? Most people will shift their gaze to look at the phone. Another obvious distraction is your guests' ringtone. If you don't have a reminder to turn phones to silent, be



ready to deal with at least one call or text notification during your ceremony.

THE UGLY

Ruins the professional shot

Flashes going off at the same time your professional photographer is trying to shoot may cause a blowout of color and ruin the focus on the image captured.

Beyond the problems of flash, guests who are trying to get a photo of you will often get in the way of your photographer's lens. Instead of your professionals' capturing a downthe-aisle image with guests looking in awe, you might end up with people leaning into frame, obstructing the shooter's view.

Although going "totally unplugged" is an increasing trend, some couples opt for an unplugged ceremony – and then encourage guests to snap away at the reception.





Black Hills Reflections By Watson Photography BlackHillsReflections.com



Photo Displays

Photo displays are a great way to showcase the coming together of two families. Featuring photos from your childhood up to your engagement is a creative way to introduce yourselves. Here are a few ideas to add that personal touch.

Design photo-lanterns to use as centerpieces or to hang around your reception area. They are decorative and a great source for soft light.

Glue old photo frames together in a triangle shape to create table centerpieces – put a candle in the middle for added effect.

Ask friends and family for photos of you, the groom or you both as a couple and hang them at the reception. Try displaying them on a picture board or with string and clothespins.

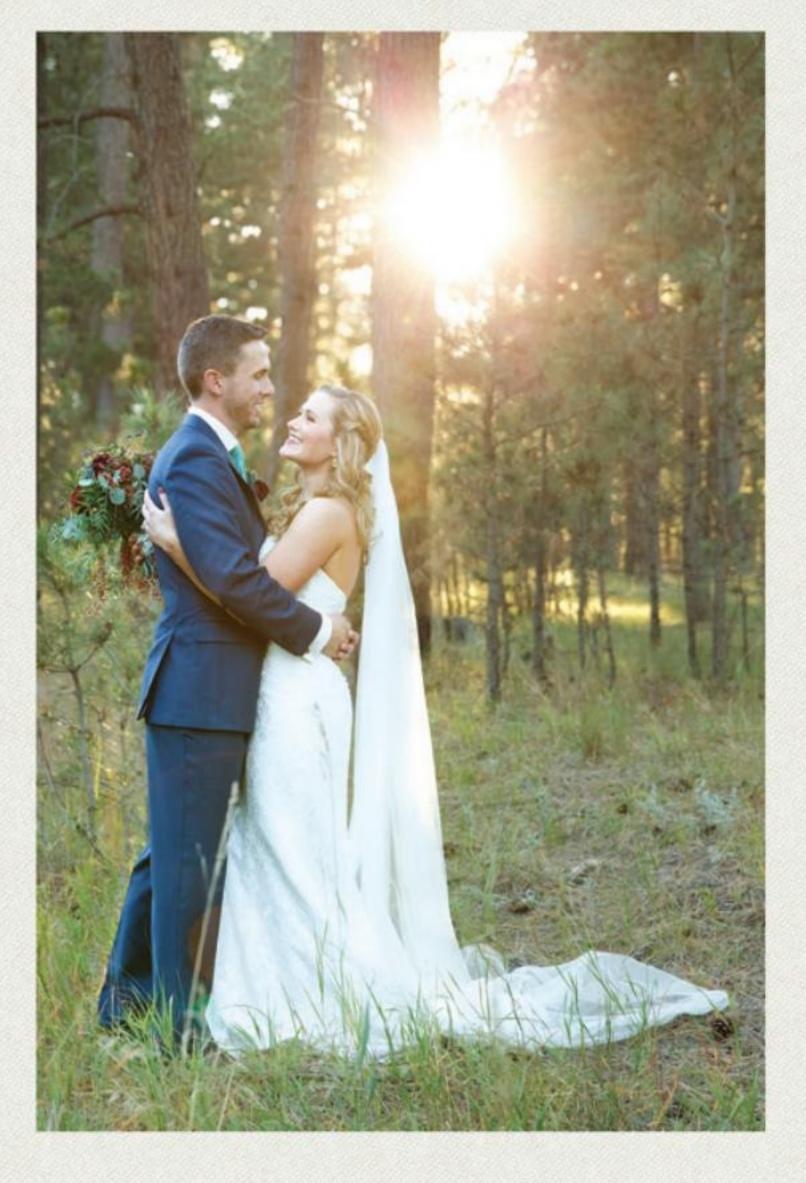
Placing pictures of you and your groom at different ages, perhaps corresponding with wedding-table numbers, gives a personal touch to your table arrangement and seating plan.

Whatever you choose to do with your images, the display possibilities are endless!









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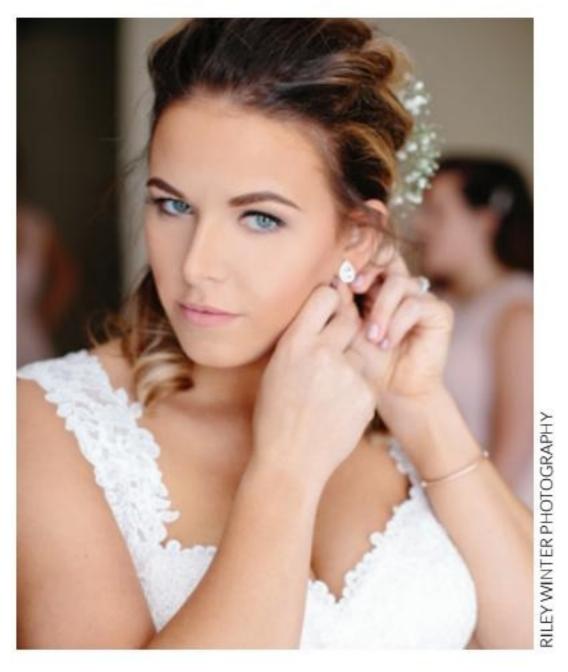
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Packages, Proofs and Prints

You'll want each special moment captured so that you can look back on it for years to come. But how do you know which photography package is the right one for you?

Start by asking what the photographers on your list offer, and if you can customize a package based on your shotlist, needs and budget. Are engagement photos included in the packages? Be sure to ask! If you want all of your images, ask about the fee for a CD of digital images. Oftentimes, photographers have a watermark on the photos they take, so find out if your digital images will have the mark removed.

Next, ask about the type of album designs offered and if they provide any assistance in creating your keepsake. It's common for couples to need help in narrowing down the hundreds of images from their wedding day. Find out if retouching, color adjustment or other corrective services are provided for an additional fee.

Lastly, find out about the proofing and ordering process. It's typical for images to be viewable online and ordered through your photographer. Ask how much time will pass after the wedding before you will see the proofs, and how long after you order your photos and album until you will receive them. Be patient, and remember this process does take time.



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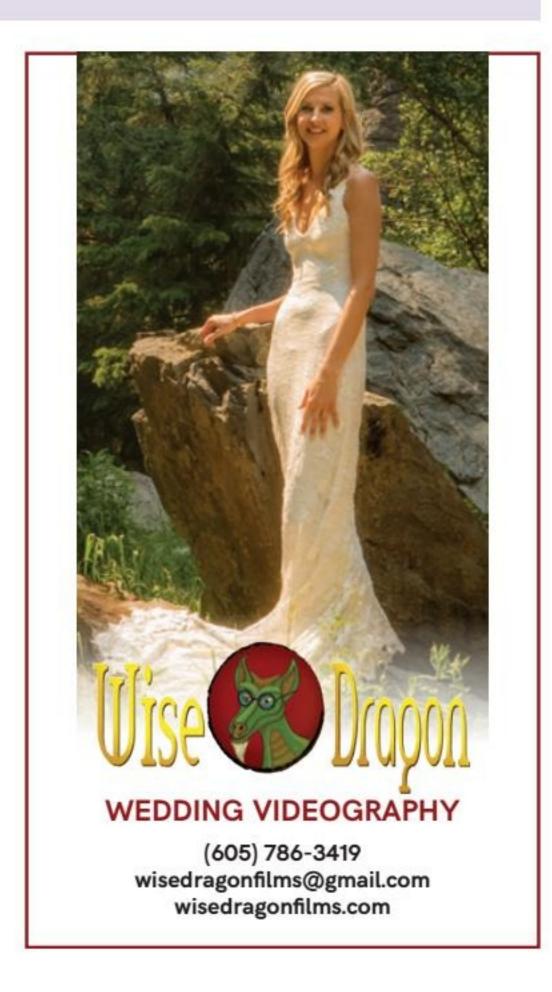
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QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- Do you have my date available?
- How long have you been in business?
- · What is included in your price?
- · What is the payment schedule?
- Do you have a preferred-vendors list of area professionals you like working with?
- · How would you describe your filming style?
- Are we able to see an example of your work?
- · What input do you need from us?
- · Have you shot at my venue(s) before?
- · Will there be a second shooter?
- What do your camera and equipment look like? Do we need to provide anything?
- Is there a back-up plan if there is equipment failure on our wedding day?
- How long after the wedding do we wait for our copy of the video?
- · What is your cancellation policy?





R. BECKER CREATIVE

Love In Motion

Videography is the perfect solution to replay your wedding day memories. Still photography won't be able to capture the fluid movement of the bride's making her way down the aisle or the groom's reaction as he sees her.

Videography is an art that uses professional cameras, software and sound equipment to capture your special day so your story can be retold over and over again.

Videographers are professional storytellers, so you will want to make sure that they are able to capture whatever parts of your story you want to tell. For example, in addition to the wedding-day video, you and your fiancé might want to consider having your vendor create a short clip – perhaps of how you met and fell in love – to show at your rehearsal dinner and reception. Having this kind of video at your event is a fun way for members of your new family and friends to get to know you as a couple, if they haven't had the chance.

You will need to create a script or interview questions for your videographer to ask you as they film your clip. Practicing your interview and what you want to say can help to calm your nerves in front of the camera.

When you begin planning your budget, allot an adequate amount for a professional. You'll have a lot of great wedding memories, and hiring a professional will ensure that your wedding video will be worth sharing time and time again. [BHB]

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KATIE FARRITOR & MARCCHARLES ZAUTKE

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TRANSPORTATION Legendary Limousine



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STUDIO LB

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Gifts to Treasure

It can be easy to overlook the people who have helped you to make your dreams come true. Take the opportunity to say "Thank You" for helping make your day unforgettable with unique keepsakes, engraved gifts or any of the following ideas.

FOR YOUR BRIDESMAIDS

Assisting in the wedding preparations can be time consuming for your bridesmaids. Consider giving engraved jewelry to use not only for your wedding day but in the future, as well. Gifts for your bridesmaids can also be practical, such as an embroidered tote bag or sweatshirt. Another gift idea for your wedding party is a gift certificate to a salon and spa or a restaurant.

FOR THE GROOMSMEN

Consider buying them their shirts, ties or socks to be worn with their suits. Engraved flasks or steins can also be a fun. A simple gift lets them know that you appreciate their efforts and that you want to thank them for all that they have done to support you.





FOR YOUR PARENTS

They worked hard to raise you; they showed you what love is about – and most importantly, they helped make your wedding day possible. A personalized photo album or picture frame can be very dear to the heart and can incorporate both childhood and current pictures. It makes a great gift they are sure to love.

Jewelry is a nice gift for mothers, and a personalized pen or watch is a great idea for fathers. Write a heartfelt thank-you letter to give to both of them. Putting your words on paper can mean the world to parents, and will become a treasured keepsake as they watch the love grow between you.

FOR EACH OTHER

The tradition of the bride and groom's gift exchange may be fading, but many couples still honor this tradition. Perfume, watches and letters are great options to keep in mind.





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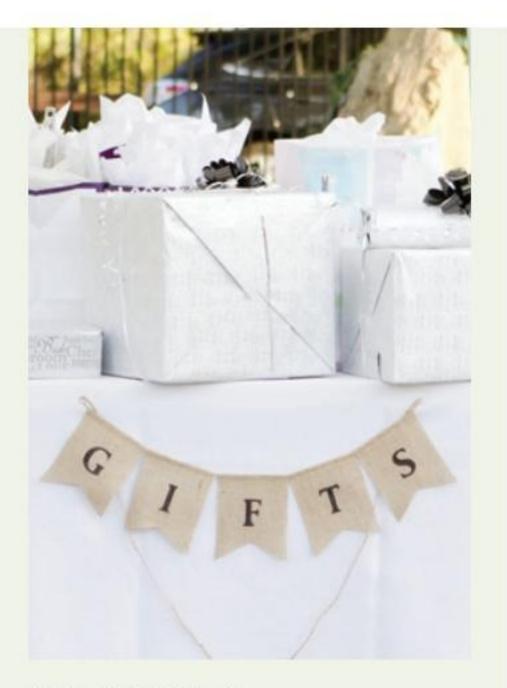
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- ☐ Coffee Maker
- ☐ Slow Cooker
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- ☐ Silverware/Knives
- □ Cookeware

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- ☐ Flat & Fitted Sheets
- ☐ Blankets
- ☐ Comforter Set
- □ Towels
- ☐ Scale
- ☐ Hamper

DÉCOR REGISTRY

- □ Vases
- ☐ Frames
- ☐ Lamps
- ☐ Electronics
- ☐ Furniture
- ☐ Wall Art

OUTDOOR & TRAVEL REGISTRY

- ☐ Patio Set
- ☐ Grill
- ☐ Barbeque Set
- □ Luggage
- ☐ Camping Gear
- ☐ Honeymoon Funds

Your Wedding-Gift Registry

Registering for gifts is a great way to let your guests know what you want or truly need for the next chapter in your life together. It also helps cut down on the returns you will have to make after the wedding. Here are a few basic tips to help you through the process.

Set up your registries soon after your engagement, as friends and family will look to it for gift-giving ideas for engagement parties and showers. At least one of your registries should allow online purchases for guests who do not live in the area.

Before you register, spend some time with your fiancé thinking about items you could use the most – as well as the ones you already have. Plan on spending several hours cruising your favorite stores to pick out just the right items. Registering can be fun and create a nice break in the hectic wedding-planning process.

Register for items at several stores and pricepoints so as to give your guests flexibility in shopping. Include items that you need for the kitchen, bedroom and bathroom, but don't forget to include "want" items that you and your groom have always intended to purchase down the road.

If there is a rule of thumb on wedding gifts, this is it: whether the gift is what you registered for or comes from the gift-givers attic, always, always say "Thank you." (Even if you are planning to return the gift.) Show you care by promptly sending notes; try to have them in the mail within a month after your honeymoon. Make all notes personal, and write them together. After all, you are a married couple now.



ESSICA SIMONS PHOTOGRAPHY



Anniversary Gifts

Your wedding day is an incredibly important occasion to be recognized long after your vows at the alter. Many people know that silver is common for a 25th anniversary and gold is for the 50th. But what about everything in between? As tradition holds, here is a list of anniversary gifts to last you a lifetime of celebrations.

	TRADITIONAL	MODERN
1st	Paper	Clocks
2nd	Cotton	China
3rd	Leather	Crystal/Glass
4th	Fruit/Flowers	Appliances
5th	Wood	Silverware
6th	Candy/Iron	Wood
7th	Wool/Copper	Desk Sets
8th	Bronze	Linens/Lace
9th	Willow/Pottery	Leather
10th	Aluminum/Tin	Diamond
15th	Crystal	Watches
20th	China	Platinum
25th	Silver	Silver
30th	Pearl	Diamond
35th	Coral	Jade
40th	Ruby	Ruby
45th	Sapphire	Sapphire
50th	Gold	Gold
55th	Emerald	Emerald
60th	Diamond	Diamond





SHOWERED IN LOVE Time to Celebrate

Rehearsal dinner and reception parties aren't the only ways to celebrate your upcoming nuptials; there are plenty of smaller gathering opportunities, too. Family and friends can use the list below for inspiration on how to help you celebrate your marriage.

Engagement Party

Traditionally hosted by the parents, the engagement party is the first celebration of your upcoming wedding. Occasionally, parents of the bride and groom will host a party together, but separate parties are more popular. They provide a convenient way for parents to introduce their child's fiancé(e) to family and friends.

Bridal or Couples' Showers

Customarily, the immediate family of the bride and groom are not the host of a shower, as it is viewed as asking for gifts. Rather, the honor attendant and bridesmaids host a shower. Since someone other than the bride always gives the shower, registry information may be included with the invitation.

Bridesmaids' Luncheon

Depending on the level of formality the bride prefers, this luncheon may take





place in a home or restaurant. This is a great opportunity for the bride to present her ladies with their wedding mementos, and also allows time to go over the planning timeline. Discuss items such as schedules for final dress fittings, pre-wedding preparations and the runthrough of the wedding day.

Bachelor/ette Party

This is the night you've been looking forward to! Just you and the girls on the last few days of single life. These gatherings can be fun and active or relaxing. Bachelorette parties often incorporate a theme and can include attending a sporting event, going to a comedy club or having a shopping excursion. Some groups enjoy activities such as paintball, gambling, golfing, bowling or even camping.

Wedding Breakfast

Close friends host this wedding-day breakfast for out-of-town guests. Use this time to remind people of the day's schedule. The couple and their families may attend if they wish.



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WHAT TO ASK:

- Are you available to help us plan our honeymoon trip?
- How long have you been in business?
- Do you have a license?
- · What is the cost of your services?
- · Do you offer a payment plan?
- Are you familiar with the best places to travel during the time of year we would like to go?
- Where have your other couples gone?
- Do you get discounts at certain resorts?
- Are there any wedding/honeymoon upgrades or bonuses?
- Have you visited the resort we are interested in? Or worked with someone there before?
- Can you recommend activities to do while we are visiting?
- Do you coordinate the transportation?
 What does that process include?
- What information do you provide us prior to our departure?
- Do you offer trip insurance?
- How can we contact you in case of an emergency?
- What is your refund / travel-change policy?

A Ticket to Paradise

Make those dreams of romance and bliss a reality by hiring a certified travel agent. A professional is familiar with "everything travel" and will save you time and money by avoiding hidden fees, poor service or unpleasant surprises. Travel agents know all of the ins and outs of multiple destinations, and will have invaluable, local advice to make your honeymoon as safe and enjoyable as possible.

Consider the climate where you will be vacationing, and pack accordingly. Consider the weather, as well as possible activities you will be doing. Start making a list of the items you will need so when the time arrives to pack your bags you don't have to rush for forgotten items.

If you are planning an international trip, accommodate the time required to get your passports and medical clearances. Begin the process early to avoid the stress of waiting for your credentials to arrive.

Carry enough cash to get you through airports and unplanned purchases. If you plan to use your credit card en route or at your destination, be sure to contact your provider at least one week before you leave.

Check with your travel agent a few days before the wedding to confirm your plans and keep all contact information on hand. Then prepare to have an amazing first vacation as husband and wife. It doesn't matter where you decide to go for your honeymoon, just go. Even if it's simply a few days near home, it's time spent together you will not regret. [BHB]





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VACATION OF A LIFETIME

Plan Your Honeymoon

THE PREPARATION Keep your budget

Weddings can quickly grow costly, and it's tempting to short-change your honeymoon. Think about it, though! This is your opportunity to put a pause on life and celebrate the commitment you made to each other. Be realistic when setting your budget, and remember that you will more than likely need extra cash to spend on your vacation for keepsakes and souvenirs.

Create a honeymoon registry

Growing in popularity is a honeymoon registry. This allows guests to help with your out-of-pocket expenses while also providing an awesome, easy gift to give you for your wedding. Send a note in your save-the-date cards mentioning that you have a honeymoon registry wishlist. Items can include everything from lodging costs to activities you would like to do on your trip.

THE RESEARCH Choose your destination

Start by writing independent wishlists. Take note of what you would like to see, what you would like to spend time doing and any dream trips you've always wanted to go on.

Once you've made your lists, share them with each other and compare. Will your vacation be relaxing or active? Will it be on a resort or a ship? Planning your trip together will ensure that both of your wishes are met.

Look for hidden fees

Be aware that "all" doesn't always mean all. If you are booking a honeymoon on a cruise ship or an all-



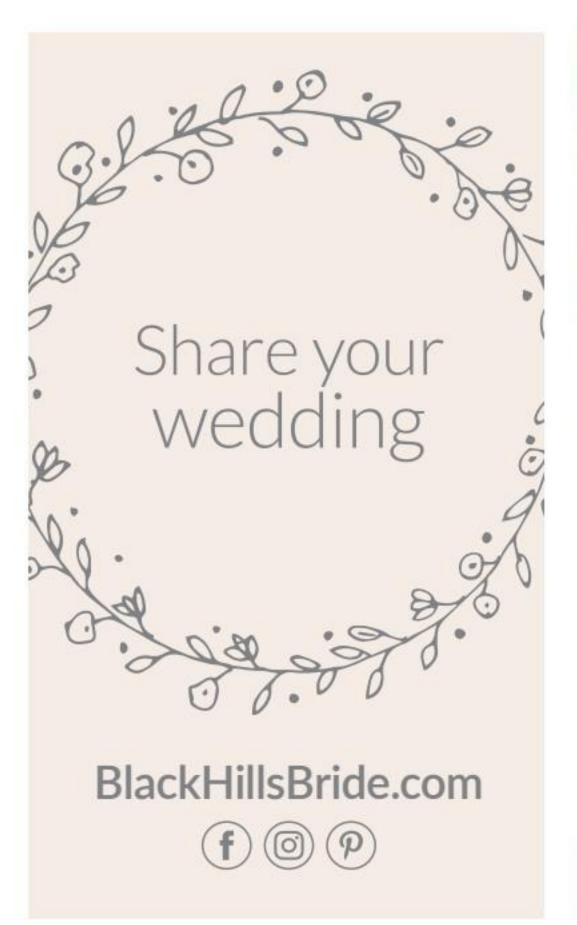
inclusive resort, make sure you know exactly what's included before you make your payment. Double-check transfers, taxes and gratuities, too.

THE TRAVEL Prepare beforehand

You may know you need your passport, but have you checked your medical needs and vaccination requirements? Some countries have illnesses that we don't see in the United States, and it is better to be safe than sick on your honeymoon.

Balance your activities

Mix adventure and relaxation. You will want to explore your destination and participate in exciting activities together. But you will also want time to recharge and soak in the downtime before heading back to reality. Don't wear yourselves out, but plan enough to avoid boredom. Balance is the key for a perfect honeymoon.







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Have a copy

Make sure you have your original marriage license – or a certified copy to confirm that you are married.

Your new license

If you change your name, then you will need a new driver's license.
This process is fairly easy; just follow the DMV's instructions. Plan accordingly, because it may take a while to get your new ID.

Update your documents

Next up is Social Security. You'll keep your number, but will need to update your name. Remember you will need to update your passport, as well.

Change your accounts

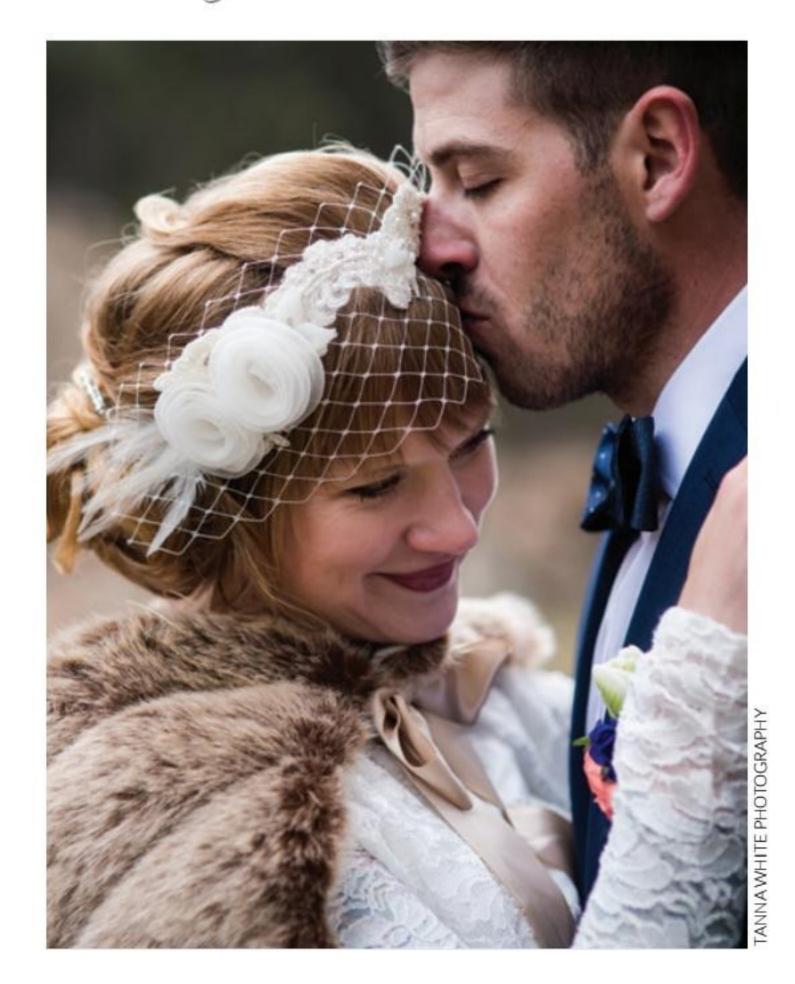
With your new driver's license and social security card, the other changes should be fairly easy.
Some places you will want to notify are: your bank, employers, post office and insurance companies.

THANK YOU NOTES

You will need to write your thank-you notes to all of your attending guests – as well as those who sent gifts but couldn't be there to celebrate with you. As a general rule, mail notes no later than eight weeks following the wedding.

Personalize thank-you notes by handwriting them, mentioning the gift and how you plan to use it. Guests will appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Congratulations



he wedding is over, but you need to take care of a few more things before turning your dream day into a memory.

Plan the wrap-up details with your family, friends and fiancé before your wedding celebration. This will make it possible to have everything in order before scrambling after your celebration to get things returned, cleaned and packaged. Here are a few things you won't want to forget.

TIP Take your gown to a professional cleaner who specializes in stain removal and wedding-dress preservation.

RETURNS

If you have rentals, such as tables, chairs, linens, or décor, then designate a family member or friend to gather them and return the items on the first business day following your wedding. Check your contract for cleaning instruction.

If your groom's and groomsmen's suits were rented, these will also need to be returned.

Oftentimes, policies require that all rentals be returned the next day. (Check your contract for specific details.) Make certain to check pockets for any personal items including keys, credit cards or cash and mints or gum.

CLEAN-UP

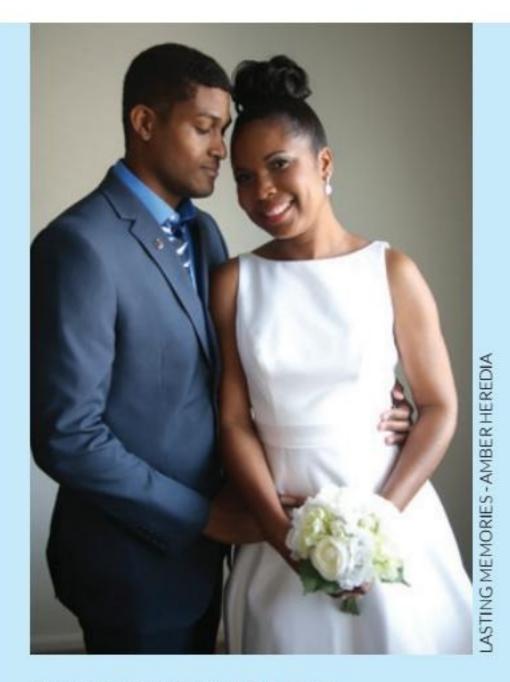
Many reception venues give couples the opportunity to gather personal items, such as picture frames, guest books and centerpieces, on the day following a wedding. If that is a possibility with your venue, you can avoid the worry of packing the car after a night of celebration. This arrangement can contribute to a stress-free wedding night.

However, you should still make a list of other, normally disposable décor items that you would like to keep. Ask a family member or friend to collect them before leaving the wedding. This will allow helpers or vendors to toss any remaining items during normal clean-up.

CREATE AN ALBUM

After the wedding, you will need to take on the task of selecting your photos. Allow yourself some time – there will be hundreds! Check your wedding photography packages to see if prints and albums are included. If not, you will need to decide how you would like to perserve them. Sort out the top 20 or 30 images and group them to tell the story of your day. [BHB]





YOUR HAPPILY-EVER-AFTER

Although it is difficult to imagine now, the time will come when your wedding is completed and your thank-you notes have been sent. Now, it is time to do some more planning – for a future together.

You only need one house between the two of you, and you will need to decide where to live. Likely, you will be combining two incomes now – and with only one housing payment to make, it might be time to think about buying a house. Appreciation in the value of a house and tax deductions are big benefits to home ownership.

At first, buying a home may seem out of reach. However, many factors could actually indicate the opposite. Do some research, taking into consideration available mortgage programs and tax benefits of home ownership. Remember, your first home will likely be a starter home. Get into your first house as soon as it is practical, rather than waiting until you can afford your forever dream home.

Meet with a mortgage-loan specialist to investigate the possibilities of home ownership. These professionals have the expertise to advise you on how much house you can afford, while keeping in mind the insurance, utilities and property tax.

It's time to settle into your new life together. Through all the changes that married life brings, make sure you take time for each other, and enjoy it!



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Black Hills Receptions and Rentals (p. 59) 10400 W. Highway 44, Rapid City

605-342-8888 blackhillsreceptions.com

Dakota Equipment Rental (p. 56) 4435 E. Colorado Boulevard, Spearfish

605-642-4702 dakotaequipmentrental.com



Table 4 Décor (p. 54)

3104 W. St. Louis, Rapid City 605-341-6705

table4decorpartyrental.com

Timeless Wedding and Event Rental (p. 57)

605-342-8966

timelessweddingandevents.com

DJ, MUSIC & LIGHTING

Complete Weddings + Events (p. 117)

800-600-5247

completeweddingrapidcity.com

Doctor Dance (p. 116)

11 Main Street, Rapid City 605-391-3612

Ken Petersen's Milestone Events (p. 117)

605-791-4232 or 877-614-4232

kensmilestones.com

PowerHouse Dance DJ's

and Sound Productions (p. 115)

605-415-1188

powerhousedancedj.com

DRY CLEANING & GOWN PRESERVATION

French Cleaners (p. 35)

Baken Park and

1320 Mt. Rushmore Road, Rapid City

605-342-6440

Heritage Dry Cleaners (p. 30)

1203 E. St. Patrick Street, Rapid City 605-341-3550

EVENT PLANNING

Audra's Bridal Gallery (p. 21)

601 St. Joseph Street, Rapid City 605-348-8816

audrasbridalgallery.com

Esteemed Events by KC (p. 23)

605-209-5622

esteemedevents.net

FLOWERS

Bloomers Flowers and Gifts (p. 64)

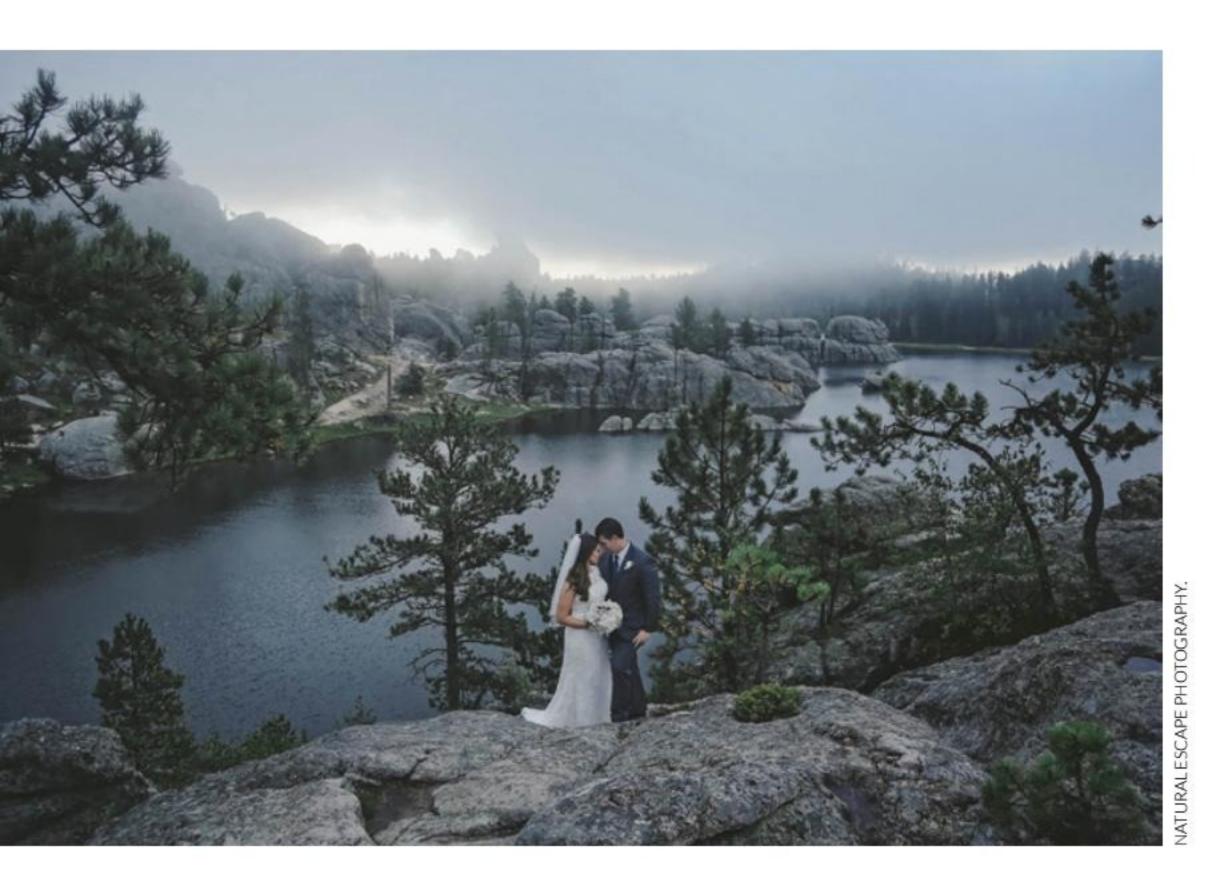
132 US Highway 14A, Central City 888-578-7737

bloomerssd.com

FCACV

	DESIRED THINGS	Halberstadt's Men's Clothiers Rushmore Mall, Rapid City 605-341-4446 halberstadtsmenswear.com Love Struck Bridal Boutique 804 St. Joseph Street, Rapid City 605-716-1183 lovestruckbridalboutique.com	(p. 43) (p. 33)
	DESI	HONEYMOON	
Flowers By LeRoy 2016 W. Main Street, Rapid City 605-342-0128 flowersbyleroy.wedding	(p. 63)	AAA South Dakota Travel Rapid City: 1-800-422-3669 Spearfish: 1-800-658-2247 AAA.com	(p. 165)
Jenny's Floral 528 Mt. Rushmore Road, Custer 605-673-3549	(p. 65)	Rapid City Medical Center 605-342-3280 rapidcitymedicalcenter.com	(p. 165)
jennysfloral.com Rockingtree Floral and Garden Center	(p. 64)	Vogel Travel 605-415-3481 vogeltravel.com	(p. 163)
1340 Lazelle Street, Sturgis 605-347-5119 rockingtreeflorist.com		INVITATIONS Copy Country	(p. 25)
Roots Wedding Florals 605-787-5050 or 605-484-4475	(p. 67)	1026 Main Street, Rapid City 605-342-0425 copycountryinc.com	
GIFTS, FAVORS & REGISTRY			
In Stitches Embroidery 605-430-8394 putyouinstitches.com	(p. 157)	JEWELRY Riddle's Jewelry 202 Disk Drive, Rapid City	(p. 1)
Mind Blown Studio 73 Sherman Street, Deadwood 605-571-1071 mindblownstudio.com	(p. 157)	605-341-2055 Rushmore Mall, Rapid City 605-342-8406 riddlesjewelry.com	
Sand Scripts 410 Maple Avenue, Rapid City 605-716-7263 sandscriptsusa.com	(p. 157)	LIGHTING SEE ALSO DJ, MUSIC, AND LIGHT	ΓING
Vanway Trophy 3120 W. Main Street, Rapid City 605-341-2929	(p. 159)	LIMOUSINES SEE ALSO TRANSPORTATION	
vanwaytrophy.com		OFFICIANT Mary Maisey-Ireland 605-484-8464	(p. 49)
GOWNS & TUXEDOS	(n. 24)	yourjoyfulwedding.com	
Audra's Bridal Gallery 601 St. Joseph Street, Rapid City 605-348-8816 audrasbridalgallery.com	(p. 31)	Sturgis Hitchin Post 2120 Lazelle Street, Sturgis 605-561-1111	(p. 49)
1000 NS		1.41 1.41	

hitchedinsturgis.com



Jenni Hahn Photography (p. 125) PARTY SUPPLIES & NOVELTIES Dick and Jane's Naughty Spot (p. 161) jennihahnphotography.com 1543 Lazelle Street, Sturgis Jessica Simons Photography (p. 137) 605-720-0049 Is-p.com dickandjanesnaughtyspot.com Lasting Memories - Amber Heredia (p. 14) 724 St. Joseph Street, Rapid City **PHOTOGRAPHY** 605-355-9559 Black Hills Portraits (p. 133) lastingmemoriesstudio.com blackhillsportraits.net (p. 8)Legacy Black Hills Reflections by legacyphotoanddesign.com Watson Photography (p. 131) Mist and Moonlight Photography (p. 130) blackhillsreflections.com mistandmoonlight.com Cadey Reisner Weddings (p. 129) Natural Escape Photography (p. 138) weddingsbycadey.com 605-641-0498 Chutin Flicks Photography (p. 139) naturalescapephoto.com chutinflicks.com R. Becker Creative (p. 127) Complete Weddings + Events (p. 117) 605-209-3207 800-600-5247 rbeckercreative.com completeweddingrapidcity.com Riley Winter Photography (p. 132) **Desired Things** (p. 125) rileywinterphotography.com desiredthingsboudoir.com Studio LB (p. 134) Indigo Blue Photography (p. 135) studio-lb.com indigobluephoto.com

Tanna White Photography 605-890-2159 tannawhite.com	(p. 132)	Deadwood Gulch Resort and Creeekside Convention Center (p. 86) 304 Cliff Street, Deadwood 605-578-1294 ext. 456 deadwoodgulchresort.com
PHOTO BOOTH RENTAL Black Hills Photo Bus 605-389-2092 vwlimobus.com/photobus	(p. 119)	Elk Creek Resort and Lodge (p. 76) 8220 Elk Creek Road, Piedmont 605-787-4884 or 800-846-2267
Complete Weddings + Events 800-600-5247 completeweddingrapidcity.com	(p. 117)	elkcreekresort.net Elkhorn Ridge Resort and Golf Course (p. 74)
Photo Booth by Provet, Inc. 605-431-6458	(p. 119)	20189 US Highway 85, Spearfish Resort: 605-722-1800
provetphotopartybooth.vpweb.com RECEPTION VENUES		Hampton Inn Rapid City (P. 88) 1720 Rapp Street, Rapid City 605-348-1911
Belle Joli' Winery 594 Main Street, Deadwood 3951 Vanocker Canyon Road, Sturg 605-347-9463	(p. 3)	High Country Guest Ranch (p. 84) 605-574-9003 highcountryranch.com
bellejoli.com.com Besler's Cadillac Ranch 605-391-6791	(p. 2)	Hilton Garden Inn (Inside Front) 815 E. Mall Drive, Rapid City 605-791-9000
beslerscadillacranch.com Black Hills Receptions and Rentals 10400 W. Highway 44, Rapid City	(p. 59)	Holiday Inn Rushmore Plaza (p. 79) 505 N. 5th Street, Rapid City 605-399-7039
605-342-8888 blackhillsreceptions.com Bluebird Mesa	(p. 83)	Homestake Visitor Center (p. 86) 160 W. Main Street, Lead 605-584-3110
549 Cold Brook Street, Hot Springs 605-890-1321 bluebirdmesa.com		Hot Springs Chamber (p. 83) 800-325-6991
Boulder Canyon Station Convention Center 2721 Lazelle Street, Sturgis 605-347-4140 or 877-793-7979	(p. 81)	hotsprings-sd.com K Bar S (Inside Back) 605-716-7971 kbarslodge.com
Comfort Suites 1333 N. Elk Vale Road, Rapid City	(p. 75)	Mineral Palace (p. 88) 800-847-2522 mineralpalace.com
605-791-5087 comfortsuitesrapidcity.com		Minervas (p. 58) 2111 N. LaCrosse Street, Rapid City
Copper Canyon Lodge 12855 Nemo Road, Rapid City	(p. 73)	605-394-9505 minervas.net
coppercanyonlodgesd.com Custer State Park Resorts 605-255-4672 custerresorts.com	(p. 15)	Mueller Civic Center (p. 82) 801 S. 6th Street, Hot Springs 605-745-3446

Ramada Stagestop Receptions 7900 Stage Stop Road Exit 48, Summerset 605-787-4997	(p. 87)	The Hotel Alex Johnson (Back Company) 523 6th Street, Rapid City 605-342-1210 alexjohnson.com/weddings	over)
stagestopreceptions.com			p. 76)
Rapid City Elks Lodge 3333 Jolly Lane, Rapid City	(p. 77)	605-642-6335 bhsu.edu/joycenterrental	
605-393-1187 rcelks.com		Woodland Receptions and Rentals (13121 Lincoln Tarken Lane, Piedmont	p. 51)
Ruby's Garden at D.C. Booth		605-393-7340	
Fish Hatchery	(p. 84)		
423 Hatchery Circle, Spearfish		REHEARSAL DINNERS	020 10220
605-642-7730 Ext. 221 dcboothfishhatchery.org/rubys-gard	den	Alpine Inn 605-574-2749	(p. 7)
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center	(p. 74)	alpineinnhillcity.com	
605-394-4115	(p. 74)		p. 50)
gotmine.com		3333 Outfitter Road, Rapid City	p. 50 ₁
Shade Valley Camp Resort	(p. 73)	605-721-7351	
20158 137th Place, Sturgis		cambriasuitesrapidcity.com	
605-347-5556			p. 88)
shadevalley.com	/ 00\	800-847-2522	
Spearfish Canyon Lodge 605-584-3435	(p. 89)	mineralpalace.com	
spfcanyon.com		SOUND EQUIPMENT RENTAL	
SpringHill Suites by Marriott 322 Main Street, Deadwood 605-559-1600	(p. 50)	Haggerty's Musicworks (2520 W. Main Street, Rapid City 605-348-4801	p. 56)
deadwoodspringhill.com		haggertysmusic.com	
Spur Creek Saloon and Ranch	(p. 10)		
17698 SD Highway 79, Newell 605-391-8282 spurcreeksaloon.com		SPA SERVICES SEE ALSO BEAUTY	
Summer Creek Inn	(p. 78)	TRANSPORTATION	
23204 Summer Creek Drive Rapid City	(p. 70)		p. 92)
605-574-4408		sturgisbus.com	
summercreekinn.com			p. 93)
Terry Peak Chalets	(p. 85)	605-389-2092	
605-359-5364 or 605-431-4256		vwlimobus.com	001
terrypeakchalets.com The Homestead at		Legendary Limousine (605-430-0610	p. 93)
Prairie Berry Winery 23835 Highway 385, Hill City	(p. 17)	legendarylimo.net	
605-574-9631		TUXEDOS	
prairieberry.com/homestead		SEE ALSO GOWNS AND TUXEDOS	





Bride

Groom

Wedding Date

WEDDINGTIMELINE

ad		Submit engagement announcement on	ead		Reserve rental equipment, such as
he		BlackHillsBride.com	Ahe		tables, chairs and tents
More Ahead		Take engagement photos			Order stationery, including invitations,
8		Think about the style of wedding you	ont		and thank you notes
or		want-formal or informal, big or small-and	ž		Register for gifts/honeymoon
		the season it will take place	4 to 6 Months		Purchase wedding rings and arrange
6 Months		Set budget	4 t		engraving, if needed
Σ		Hire wedding coordinator, if desired			Purchase or reserve groom's attire
9		Compile guest list and organize addresses			Choose attendants' attire
		Finalize wedding date and time			Help mothers choose their dresses
		Choose color, theme, and size of wedding			Book hair, nail and makeup
		Reserve ceremony and reception sites			appointments
		Choose attendants			Order wedding cake
		Order dress and accessories, including			Choose favors
		veil and shoes			Book a room for wedding night
		Book officiant			Reserve accommodations for
		Book caterer			out-of-town guests
		Book florist			Sign up for dance lessons
		Book music for ceremony and reception			0
		Meet with clergy or officiant for	2 to 4 Months Ahead		Select songs for ceremony, dinner
		pre-marital counseling requirements	Ahead		and dances
		and begin classes, if appropriate	s A		Finalize details with florist, DJ,
		Arrange transportation for the	Months	10000	photographer, caterer
	A3	wedding day	9		Finalize menu with caterer
		Book honeymoon, apply for	4		Discuss service with officiant
	320-320	passport if needed	2 to 4		Choose readings for ceremony
		Send save-the-dates, if using	``		Try out makeup and hairstyle
		Set up honeymoon registry			Schedule a session with your
					videographer to film video for the
					rehearsal dinner/reception
					Mail invitations
	CC	PYRIGHT ©2017 Black Hills Bride			Finalize honeymoon details
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1 to 2 Months Ahead		Buy guest book, unity candle, toasting glasses, cake knife and server, flower girl/ring bearer accessories Confirm ceremony details Prepare printed program for ceremony Schedule rehearsal time and rehearsal dinner Invite wedding party and guests to rehearsal dinner Complete documents for change of	1 Week Ahead	 □ Pick up dress □ Pick up rings □ Write rehearsal dinner and wedding toasts □ Finalize seating plan □ Get manicure and pedicure □ Pack for honeymoon □ Write thank you notes as you receive gifts □ Verify transportation to and from ceremony
		legal name and address, if needed Obtain marriage license, and request certified copies Pick up rings and check engraving Confirm details with the florist, caterer, entertainers, and officiant Buy gifts for attendants, flower girl, ring bearer, fiancé(e), parents	Day Before	 Deliver out-of-town guest gift baskets to hotel Attend ceremony rehearsal Hold rehearsal dinner and give gifts to wedding party Prepare tip envelopes and arrange for someone to distribute them
2 Weeks Ahead		Have final dress-fitting with shoes, accessories, and lingerie Have fittings for tuxedos and attendants' dresses Submit list of must-take shots to photographer and videographer Follow up on missing RSVPs Arrange seating chart and place cards Create wedding-day schedule; share with wedding party and vendors Notify caterer of final guest count Find out where your guests will be staying, if you plan to deliver welcome bags to their rooms	Wedding Day	 □ Eat breakfast □ Get hair and makeup done □ Get dressed □ Relax and enjoy the day □ Give your vows to your Maid of Honor □ Exchange a note/gift with your groom
N -	01	ΓES		
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SHARING THE COSTS

The most useful approach for a bride and groom to take with their families is to be communicative, realistic, and courteous. Weddings are expensive and there are times when tradition should bow to practicality. Below is the traditional division of expenses.

Bride's Family

- Invitations, announcements, and postage
- Bride's wedding attire and trousseau
- Cost of the ceremony, including rental of sanctuary, chapel or other facility, organist, soloist and sexton fees, aisle carpets, flowers, and any additional decorating costs
- · Bridesmaids' bouquets
- Cost of the reception, including food, wedding cake, beverages, flowers, decorations, music, rental equipment and gratuities for bartenders and waiters
- · Engagement and wedding photographs
- Transportation
- Wedding gift for the newlyweds
- Wedding consultant
- Any welcome parties for out-of-town guests

Bride

- · Groom's ring
- · Gift for the groom
- · Gifts for her attendants
- Lodging for her out-of-town attendants (optional)
- · Bridesmaids' luncheon
- Gift for parents

Groom's Family

- · Their own wedding attire
- · Wedding gift for the newlyweds
- · Rehearsal dinner
- · Their travel expenses and hotel bills
- Shipment of wedding gifts to the bridal couple's new home

Groom

- · Bride's engagement and wedding rings
- · Gift for the bride
- Marriage license
- · Fee for officiant
- · Gifts for best man, groomsmen, and ushers
- Bridal bouquet and going-away corsage
- Boutonnières for all men in wedding party
- Mothers' and Grandmothers' corsages
- Lodging for out-of-town attendants (optional)
- Honeymoon
- · Bachelors' dinner (optional)
- · Gift for parents

Attendants and Ushers

- · Their wedding attire selected by the bride
- Travel expenses and lodging
- · Parties for the bride and groom
- · Wedding gift for the couple

OTES	 	 	
			<u> </u>

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Developing a realistic wedding budget is essential and should be one of the first things you do.

Keep your budget in mind so that you will be able to make the right decisions throughout the process.

Below are a few questions you may want to discuss before developing your final budget. Once you decide on your priorities, this list will guide you in setting your budget. Once your budget is set, stick to it by using our handy budget worksheets (starting on the adjacent page) to keep you on task.

Overall Budget

How much do you want to spend? Are the necessary funds available? What is the size of wedding party? How many guests will be invited?

Ceremony, Reception 45%

Where will you hold each?
Indoor or outdoor?
Church or other venue?
Reception formal or casual?
Ballroom or hall?

Sit-down service or buffet?

Food, Catering, and Wedding Cake (included in Reception percentages)

Is the caterer independent of your venue?

Will appetizers be served during cocktail hour?
Will there be alcohol?
Full bar or limited to beer, champagne and wine?
Do you want a custom-designed cake or something smaller with sheet cake service?

Attire 8%

Do you want a designer gown or off-the-rack? Will you purchase or rent formalwear?

Photography, Video 18%

What style do you prefer, posed or photojournalistic?
Do you want a leather-bound photo book or something less expensive?
What style of videography do you want?
How many copies of the video will be needed?

Transportation 2%

How will you travel from your venues?
Will you provide rented transportation for the entire wedding party?
Does your venue require valet parking or shuttle service?

Entertainment 4%

Will you have an orchestra, band or musician at the ceremony? Band, DJ or both for your reception? What other sort of entertainment will be needed?

Floral & Décor 12%

Are the flowers you are wanting in season?
Who will have flowers out of your wedding party,
family and friends?
Will you use flowers for your cake and décor?
How far in advance do you need your flowers?
Are you wanting to preserve your bouquet?
Will you need to rent tables, chairs, linens, etc?
Are you going to be purchasing tablescape materials and décor?

Stationery 3%

Are you looking for a certain color, paper type, font or ink?

How much text would you like to include?

Are you going to include a picture or graphic on your save-the-date card or announcement?

Custom-designed or just customized stationery?

Will you be mailing your invitations?

How many guests will need invites?

Will you be ordering programs, table placeholders, signs and thank yous?

Invitations Letterpress or printed?

What inserts will be required with the invitations?

Honeymoon 8%

Will you be leaving the country and need an updated passport?
Have received all your proper vaccinations?
Are you going to have a professional create your travel itinerary?
Would you prefer an adult-only resort?
Will you work with a travel agent?
Do you have all the gear you need for your trip?

BUDGET MANAGEMENT

Wedding Rings	Photography	
Engagement ring	Photographer's fee	
Bride's ring	Engagement portrait	
Groom's ring	Wedding album	
subtotal	Parents' albums	
	Additional prints	
Attire	subtotal	
Bride's dress		
Headpiece and veil	Music	
Bride's shoes	Ceremony music	
Lingerie, hosiery, garter	Cocktail-hour music	
Jewelry and accessories	Reception music (DJ)	
Hair, makeup, manicure	subtotal	
Dress preservation		
Groom's tuxedo or suit	Stationery	
Groom's shoes	Save-the-date cards	
Groom's accessories	Invitations and envelopes	
subtotal	Map inserts	
	Announcements	-
Ceremony and Reception	Response cards	
Ceremony location fee	Thank-you notes	
Officiant fee	Ceremony programs	
Organist / musicians / soloist	Calligraphy / addressing	
Marriage license	Postage	
Aisle runner, decorations	Place cards	
Candles, misc.	Printed napkins	
Reception location fee	subtotal	
Catering fee		
Cake	Transportation	
Bar	Limousine or carriage	
Decorations	Guest transportation	
Rentals	subtotal	
Tips		
subtotal		
Subtotal		
NIOTEC		
NOTES		

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Gifts, Favors, and Extras	Flowers	
Maid of honor's gift	Ceremony	
Bridesmaids' gifts	Alter/church	()
Best man's gift	Bride's bouquet	
Groomsmen's gifts	Bouquet preservation	2
Bride's parents' gifts	Attendant's bouquets	3
Groom's parents' gifts	Flower girl accessories	1
Flower girl	Mothers' corsages	<u> </u>
Ring bearer	Boutonnières	F
Favors	subtotal	·
Ring pillow		
Guest book	Reception	
Cake knife / server	Cake table	
Toasting glasses	Buffet table	ia de la companya de
subtotal	Head table	
	Centerpieces	3
Rehearsal Dinner	Decorating	·
Site rental	subtotal	·
Caterer		
Taxes and gratuities	Helpers (total):	
Other	Wedding coordinator	
Bridesmaid's luncheon	Cake-cutting/	
subtotal	gift-table attendant(s)	
Subtotal	Guest book attendant	3
Vidaganahu		¥
Videography	Officiant	
Videographer fee	Soloists / musicians	
Extra copies of video	subtotal	
subtotal		
Honeymoon	Total	
Transportation		
Accommodations		
Daily budget		
NIOTEC		
NOTES		

COMPARE RECEPTION VENUES

Where to hold your reception is one of the most complex decisions to make. Use this comparison chart to help you decide what your priorities are, and how the cost will enter into your overall plan.

Amenities Available	1:	2:	3:
Formal / informal décor			
Decorating restrictions			
Distance from ceremony			
Disabled access			
Capacity			
Air conditioned			
Dance floor / stage			
Sound system / piano			
Head table			
# of guest tables / chairs			
Guest book table			
Gift table			
Cake table			
Linens			
China, flatware			
Stemware / glassware			
Wedding coordinator			
Catering service			
Wait staff			
Bar / bartender			
Champagne cost			
Corkage fee			
Cake-cutting charge			
Clean-up charge			
Adequate or valet parking			
Other			
Head count deadline			
Hours available			
Early set-up availability			
Taxes and gratuity			
Deposit amount			
Deposit deadline			
Final payment deadline			
EST. COST TO BUDGET			

PAYMENT RECORD

ate Due		Balance Due	Method/Check#	Amount	Payment Made To	Date
	70					
5				÷		
5						

NOTES			

CEREMONY DETAILS

Details of your ceremony will express who you are. Use this page to record all of the vendors you have selected to make your ceremony the one of your dreams.

DateI imeLocation	
Officiant	Officiant fee
Address	Phone
Rehearsal date	Rehearsal time
Rehearsal dinner location	Reservation time
Number of guests	
Site requirements	
Seating capacity	
Site fee_	
Services:	
Photographer	Phone
Videographer	Phone
Florist	Phone
Decorator	Phone
Wedding coordinator	Phone
Transportation	Phone
Music:	
Soloist	Phone
Soloist	Phone
Musician	Phone
Musician	Phone
Processional Song	
Recessional Song	

RECEPTION DETAILS

Use this page to record all of the vendors you have selected to help make your reception a party. It's your first celebration as husband and wife – so make it great.

Venue:			
Location			Seating capacity
Address		0	Phone
Manager			
Rental cost			Deposit
Final payment due date		ilma — et — elma — et — ell	Equipment rental fee
Date / time room is available fo	or decorating		
Tables and chairs provided	☐ Yes	□No	Quantity needed
Linens provided	☐ Yes	□No	Quantity needed
Clean-up requirements			
Food:			
Caterer			Phone
Meal description			
Baker		W. C.	Phone
Cake description			
Entertainment:			
DJ/Band			Cost
Contact person			Phone
Arrival time			Hours of music
Conser			
Songs: Father / daughter dance			Mother / son dance
First dance			Parents' dance
Throwing bouquet			Garter toss
Wedding party dance			Dollar or traditional dance
Last dance			Other

BRIDAL PARTY

Attendants Name: _____ Phone: E-mail: _____ Name: _____ Phone: E-mail: _____ Name: _____ Phone: E-mail: Name: _____ Phone: _____ Name: Phone: _ E-mail: _____ Name: Phone: E-mail: Name: _____ Phone: E-mail: ______ Name: Phone: E-mail:

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Wedding Day
6:00 am:
7:00 am:
8:00 am:
9:00 am:
10:00 am:
11:00 am:
NOON:
1:00 pm:
2:00 pm:
3:00 pm:
4:00 pm:
5:00 pm:
6:00 pm:
7:00 pm:
8:00 pm:
9:00 pm:
10:00 pm:
11:00 pm:
MIDNIGHT:

PHOTOGRAPHY CHECKLIST

Bride's Photos	☐ Ring ceremony
☐ Full Length	☐ Candids of bride's / groom's faces
☐ Back of dress	☐ Unity candle ceremony
☐ Bouquet	☐ Groom kissing the bride
☐ With both parents	Recessional
☐ With parents separately	☐ Guests throwing seeds, petals, etc.
☐ With grandparents	Reception
☐ With siblings	☐ Guests signing guest book
☐ With maid / matron of honor	☐ Place cards, favors
☐ With all attendants	☐ Centerpieces, place settings
□ With groomsmen	 □ Centerpieces, place settings □ Bride and groom listening to toasts □ Candids throughout room
☐ With flower girl and ring bearer	☐ Candids throughout room
Pre-Wedding	☐ Bride and groom's first dance
☐ Bride getting ready	☐ Bride-and-father dance
☐ Bride putting on veil	☐ Groom-and-mother dance
☐ Candid shots of bride preparing	☐ Guests dancing
☐ Groom getting ready	☐ Cake, cake table
☐ Attendants getting ready	☐ Cake cutting
☐ Front of ceremony location	☐ Bouquet toss
☐ Guests arriving and being seated	☐ Garter removal and toss
Groom's Photos	□ Departure vehicle
☐ Full length	☐ Newlyweds departing
☐ With both parents	Videography Checklist
☐ With parents separately	☐ Bride leaving home
☐ With grandparents	☐ Guests arriving at ceremony
☐ With siblings	☐ Wedding party preparing
☐ With best man	☐ Ceremony
☐ With all attendants	☐ Guests leaving
☐ With bridesmaids	☐ Guests arriving reception
Bride and Groom Photos	Videography Checklist ☐ Bride leaving home ☐ Guests arriving at ceremony ☐ Wedding party preparing ☐ Ceremony ☐ Guests leaving ☐ Guests arriving reception ☐ Announcing of newlyweds and party ☐ Toasts
☐ Bride and groom together	☐ Toasts
☐ With each set of parents	☐ First dance
☐ With entire wedding party	☐ Guests dancing
☐ Close-up of hands displaying rings	☐ Cake cutting
☐ Signing the marriage certificate	☐ Bouquet and garter toss
Ceremony	☐ Bride and groom with individual guests
☐ Musicians / Vocalists	☐ Bride and groom leaving
☐ Attendants waiting to enter	☐ Other
☐ Parents being seated	
☐ Candids of parents	NICTEC
☐ Attendants walking down aisle	NOTES
☐ Child attendants walking down aisle	
☐ Groom coming down the aisle	
☐ Clergy, groom and best man at altar	
☐ Bride and father walking down aisle	
☐ Father giving bride's hand to groom	
☐ Vow exchange	

TO-DO CHECKLIST

Wedding Day Attire	Honeymoon
Bride:	☐ Airline tickets (note flight number
☐ Gown (be sure it is pressed)	and departure / arrival times)
☐ Headpiece and veil	☐ Cruise tickets (note cabin number
☐ Lingerie (bra, bustier, slip, petticoat)	and departure / arrival times)
☐ Hosiery and garter	☐ Resort / Hotel (address, phone and
□ Shoes	confirmation numbers)
☐ Jewelry and accessories	□ Passports/Visas
☐ Wrap/jacket	☐ Digital camera
☐ Gloves	☐ Credit cards / travelers checks
□ Gloves	
C	☐ Medicines / prescriptions
Groom:	☐ Extra contacts or glasses
☐ Coat, shirt, vest, trousers	☐ Toiletries
□ Neckwear	☐ Electrical plug adapters
☐ Cuff links	☐ Travel iron / steamer
☐ Socks and shoes	☐ Cell phone
Don't Forget	When Updating Your Name
Rings	☐ Auto registration
☐ Marriage license	☐ Bank and credit card accounts
☐ Ring bearer's pillow	☐ Car insurance
☐ Flower girl's basket	□ Credit reporting agencies
☐ Wedding programs	☐ Deeds / titles
☐ Cake knife and server	☐ Driver's license
☐ Toasting glasses	☐ Employee records
☐ Favors	☐ Investment accounts / stock certificates
☐ Guest book and pen	☐ Life insurance
☐ Unity candle	☐ Medical / dental records
☐ To pay officiant and vendors	☐ Memberships
☐ Assign someone to collect	□ Passport
and transport gifts	□ Post Office
and transport Sites	☐ Social Security
	☐ Tax agencies (federal, state, local)
	□ Voter registration□ Wills / trusts
	□ VVIIIS/ trusts
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January							February								March								April						
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January							February								March							April						
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