

# Bridal

GUIDE 2011



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# Picture Perfect

Here are some tips on perfect wedding makeup from the experts at Just for Redheads.

Less is more when it comes to wedding day makeup; use enough to emphasize your best features, but don't overdo it.

♥ Use flattering neutrals to highlight your eyes. Choose a mascara color that fits your coloring. This is a special challenge for redheads since most mascaras are too dark. Just for Redheads studio mascara, which comes in three warm and natural shades, works well with fair complexions.

♥ Try mixing your foundation with moisturizer for the sheerest, most natural coverage.

♥ Add just enough concealer to even out spots and redness.

♥ Apply lip color using a lip brush, then outline with a lip pencil in a complementary color. Don't use a darker liner; it will look harsh and unnatural in pictures.

♥ Add powder to avoid shine; use a yellow or honey-toned product, not a translucent one. Also, avoid powders with glittery or pearlized

finishes -- a matte finish will last longer and photograph better.

For black-and-white photos, concentrate on definition:

♥ Line eyes and lips carefully.

♥ Dark shades of lipstick and liner tend to look even darker in black and white -- use a lighter shade than usual. For fair-skinned redheads, who often have difficulty finding flattering lip colors, Just for Redheads offers new Luxury Lip Quads. A convenient set of four complementary lip colors, the Quads are designed specifically for strawberry blond to red, and red to auburn shades.

♥ Apply blush evenly and select a shade that's close to your natural skin tone -- the camera will exaggerate bright tones.

Just for Redheads offers a complete line of natural-looking beauty products designed specifically for redheads including cosmetics, hair, nail and skin care products. For more information, call (800) 830-8240 or visit [justforredheads.com](http://justforredheads.com). (ARA)

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# A designer's wedding

It all started when I took a job that would move me to Chicago. I was about to embark on a new adventure with a new position. I did not know that this would lead me to a new romance, foreign lands I never traveled to before and into a life filled with challenges, laughter, love and, yes, more wallpaper.

I was nicknamed the Queen of Wallpaper by my peers. By now you have probably guessed I am a designer, a designer of wallpaper and fabrics. Planning a wedding is all about details. I wanted to create surroundings that would make our wedding distinctly ours and rich with references that we and family and friends would recall with fondness for the rest of our lives.

Who knew that my passion for wallpaper would become a focal point in planning my own wedding? Pattern became my magic ingredient. Probably because of my English heritage, I selected a beautiful rose floral wallpaper and matching fabric I designed to

be the central theme.

With the rose pattern as a central focus, here are some of the unique decorative elements I tied together around this theme:

♥ The invitations were custom designed with the rose floral, mixed with vellum and satin ribbons, tucked beautifully inside sage translucent envelopes that allowed the pattern to show through.

♥ Upon arrival, guests were greeted with custom tote bags, made of the rose fabric and lined with a lattice fabric from Sarong, a Jaima Brown Home signature collection. A string of beads embellished each bag, and all of them contained a sample of local goodies along with literature about features of interest in beautiful Door County. A vase of barely opening fresh roses was also set in each guest room along with our note thanking friends for coming to help us celebrate. For children, there was a special candy bag made of clear cellophane lined with wallpaper that coordinated with the rose. We mixed shredded wallpaper in with the candies.



♥ For an evening dinner cruise the night before the wedding, we banded straw bowler hats with the companion rose wallpaper border. It set just the right tone for an evening of fun and dancing to a local Dixieland band.

♥ Rice is outdated, and bubbles are messy. As our guests left the church, each was given a cone, made of the now-familiar coordinating



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mini rose wallpaper with a sheer ribbon bow, filled with pink and white rose petals, which they showered on us with joyful abandon.

♥ For the reception, a once-ordinary white tent was transformed into a profusion of pattern and color. Abundant swags of a lattice design fabric, the same one that lined the custom tote bags, covered and disguised each tent pole. Long folds of the floral rose fabric stretched overhead, from the edges of the tent into the center. The edge itself was surrounded in the coordinating rose wallpaper border.

♥ To create a distinctive twist for showing guests where they'd be seated, we covered an ordinary room screen with a coordinating subtle damask wallpaper pattern. Sheer sage ribbon was stretched horizontally across the



screen which held the custom rose place cards. To the surprise and delight of many guests, we attached informal snapshots interspersed with the name cards.

♥ A custom scrapbook was created from scraps of all the wallpapers and ribbons we used throughout. It doubled as a guest book --a great keepsake of memories and good times shared.

♥ The tables themselves were layered in custom rose fabric tablecloths topped with a coordinating wide-checked fabric. Two lengths of the die-cut rose border ran back to back along the center of the table. At each place setting was a small, wallpaper-wrapped package containing a CD of our favorite songs. Naturally, the original CD cover was replaced with a square of the rose floral, printed with our names and the date.

A wedding is the world's most joyous celebration of romance. It is, at the same time, public and intimate. Therefore, all the decorative objects that surround such an occasion should reflect both the bride's and groom's own taste and style. Be inspired. Browse through S.A. Maxwell's wallpaper and fabric collections to create your own signature wedding. Visit [www.samaxwell.com](http://www.samaxwell.com). (ARA)



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# Don't let mother nature ruin your wedding

Wedding dress, \$1,200; banquet hall rental, \$10,000; flowers, \$5,000; cake \$600; and that's just the tip of the iceberg. Before you know it, the cost of putting on a wedding can exceed a lot of people's annual salaries. According to Conde Nast's Bride's Magazine, the average wedding costs between \$20,000 and \$25,000 to put on; many far exceed that amount. When compared to the cost of the event itself, wedding insurance is relatively inexpensive. Depending on the coverage you select, insuring a \$20,000 wedding would cost about \$400.

## What kind of coverage is available?

♥ **Cancellation or postponement** -- If a natural disaster such as a firestorm, flooding, blizzard, ice storm, tornado, earthquake or volcanic eruption prevents the rehearsal, rehearsal dinner, wedding or honeymoon from taking place, the cost of rescheduling the event will be covered. Coverage is also available if the bride, groom or someone else in the wedding party gets sick or injured; if there is damage to the wedding attire or the place where the



ceremony is to be held; and if someone key to the event like the caterer or priest fails to show up.

♥ **Additional expenses** -- This coverage will pay for expenses associated with arranging alternative services to avoid a covered cancellation or postponement of the wedding or reception.

♥ **Photographs** -- This coverage actually pays to reshoot the event should the photog-

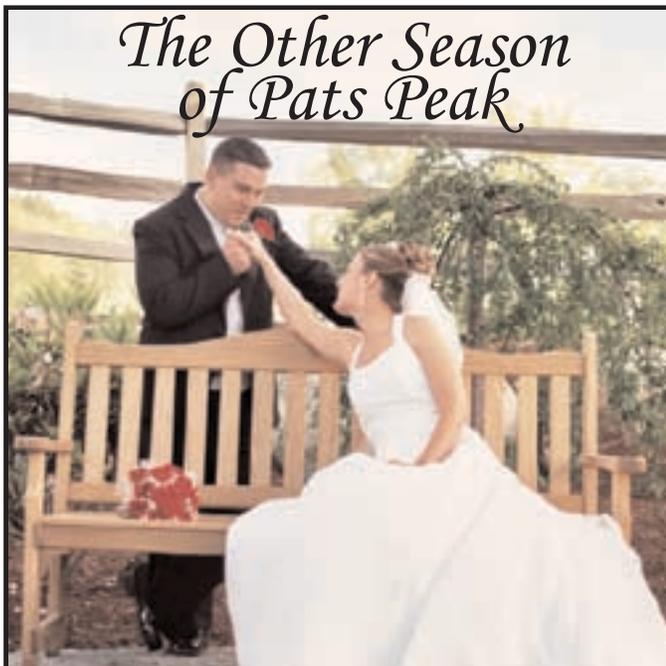
rapher fail to appear, if the negatives are lost, stolen or damaged, or if the photographer is nowhere to be found 6 weeks after the event date. The policy will pay to fly or drive the wedding party back to the event location, put them up in a hotel, feed them, redress them, re-rent the facility, rehire a photographer, buy a new cake, buy new flowers, reshoot the event, then drive or fly the participants home.

♥ **Gifts** -- this coverage is intended to protect you against damage, theft or loss of your wedding gifts.

♥ **Rental property** -- if you are renting chairs, tables, or tents for the wedding, this coverage will pay the replacement cost if something gets lost, stolen or damaged.

♥ **Special attire** -- if your wedding gown or the attire of attendants is lost, damaged, or stolen, this coverage will provide for repair or replacement.

♥ **Jewelry** -- this coverage allows you to repair or replace jewelry when it is lost, stolen or damaged. For more information, call (800) ENGAGED or log onto RVNuccio.com. (ARA)



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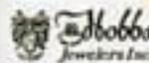
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# Bridal registries reflect our casual lifestyles

Brides building their bridal registries today are thinking twice about china cabinet classics, turning instead to home items in which the luxury is a bit more casual.

"Bridal registries are becoming less utilitarian and more personalized," says Leslie Gillock from Wamsutta home fashions, which recently launched wamsuttabridal.com to help brides organize their bridal registry thoughts. "Brides are still using registries to outfit their kitchens and build their linen closets, but they're also adding an eclectic mix of home decor items that are fun, functional and luxurious."

That's the case for bride-to-be Lani Britten. "How often would I use fine china? In my lifestyle, it's impractical, and my taste will probably change over the years," says the 28-year-old South Florida bride. "I will put luxury in my bedroom though," says Britten, who registered for high-thread count, 100 percent cotton sheets, a silk comforter and even a bedskirt and throw pillows.

"Nice sheets will never go out of style," she says. "Plus, they're something my fiance and I



can both enjoy."

Along with hopes of possibly getting her first set of Court of Versailles 500-Thread Count sheets, Britten is excited about adding soft chenille rugs, a spa bath pillow and a CD player to her home -- items she defines as indulgent yet practical.

And since Britten and her fiance like to entertain, they're hoping their bridal registry will allow them to add finishing decorating touches to their home with artwork, outdoor games and barbecue tools. (ARA)

## Bridal Registry Tips

Keep these guidelines in mind when creating a bridal registry:

♥ **Select items from two categories:** What you really need, such as utensils and dishes, and what you really want, such as that set of 500-Thread Count sheets.

♥ **Give gift givers choices:** Men might like to buy their buddies a gas grill from a Wal-Mart, and girlfriends will enjoy the decorative selections at home stores such as Linens'n Things and Bed Bath and Beyond.

♥ **Stock Up:** You'll want at least eight to 12 dinnerware place settings and utensils, three sets of sheets for the master bedroom and enough towels for you and your first guests.

♥ **Check Up:** Review your registries periodically to take off items that you've already received and add new items as you better plan your new home.

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# Your big day on a dime

A wedding to treasure doesn't have to break the bank. In fact, with smart planning and a little research, you can have a beautiful and memorable wedding with money left over for the honeymoon.

According to experts at The Art Institutes, the best way to begin planning your wedding is to start with a ballpark budget in mind. Determine your high and low price and then head online to do research. This gives you a great starting point.

Once you know what you can spend, involve friends and family to help offset costs. For example, you may have friends who are DJs or amateur photographers and are willing to donate their talents for your big day.

♥ If you have your heart set on the \$1,200 dress, find a dressmaker and you can get it made for \$500.

♥ For elegant food, simpler is better. Guests do not need a large variety of hors d'oeuvres or entree choices. You always have better quality with less quantity.

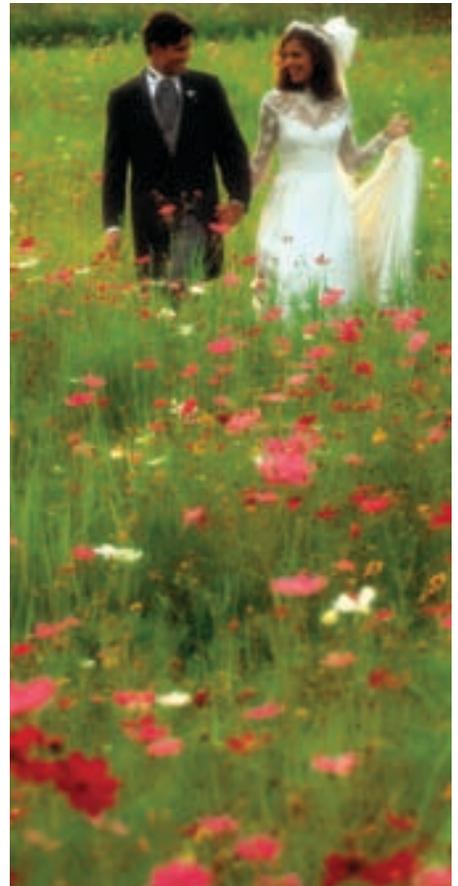
♥ For the location, try something offbeat

like a park with a ballroom or a school gymnasium. Some apartment or condo complexes have clubhouses that they allow residents to use for a few hundred dollars.

♥ Consider booking your wedding on a Friday night or Sunday morning or afternoon. Since these are not popular days, you may get a discount for using that non-premium time.

♥ If you don't have a crowd that drinks a lot of alcohol and you are using a location that includes alcohol in the per head cost, then simply remove premium alcohol and serve only wine and beer. That will lower the cost by about \$8 per person. Then reserve about \$200 for those few persons who might want whisky, etc.

♥ Go to your local college, art or music school to find out about hiring students to play music or take photographs. These schools may be able to refer you to students who are willing to work for less in exchange for the experience and building their portfolio. Be sure to ask for samples, but be flexible. Generally, students are not professionals. (ARA)



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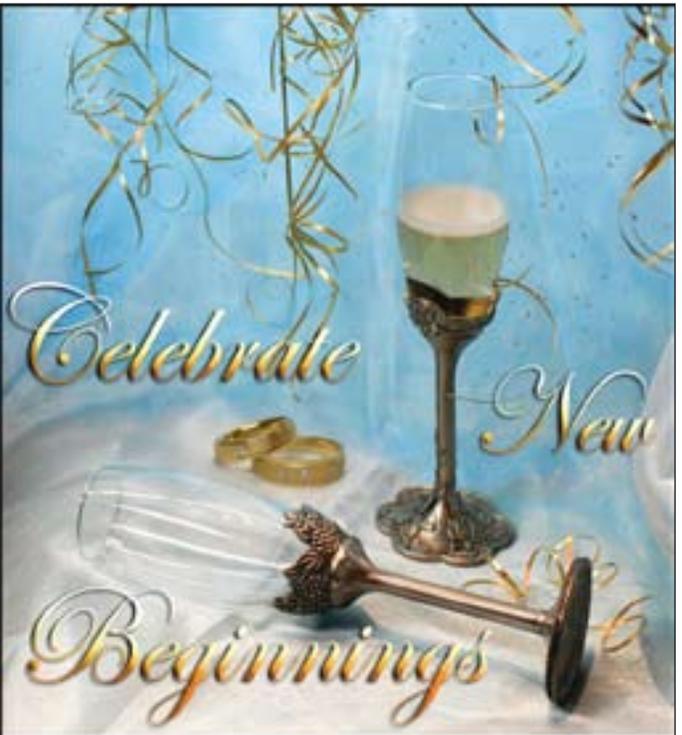
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# Throw an eco-friendly celebration

Planning a celebration for an upcoming bridal shower? Please your guests and the planet by taking part in the latest party planning trend -- eco-friendly parties and events.

More and more party hosts are delighting their guests and finding ways to "green" their celebrations. According to a survey conducted by MyPunchbowl, 94 percent of hosts are eco-conscious when planning events.

One way to start your eco-friendly party planning on the right foot is to use online invitations. Online invitations have come a long way and are widely accepted for most celebrations. Some sites allow hosts to design their own online invitation or save the date notice using paperless "papers" and "ribbons" that look like the real thing.

Whether you are hosting an intimate wedding rehearsal dinner party or a large wedding shower, the experts at MyPunchbowl recommend these tips to make your next party a green one no matter what the occasion:

♥ **Decorations.** Bring your party to life by decorating with live plants and flowers. Ex-



pensive bouquets are not required to make a statement. Simply use small vases with one or two flowers in each for an elegant effect. Use locally grown or organic plants and flowers to keep it eco-friendly. For an added touch, let your guests take home the flowers.

♥ **Lighting.** Use natural lighting whenever possible. If you can have your party during the day, take advantage of the outdoors or natural light. If your party is in the evening, decorate with candles. Use soy or organic beeswax candles since traditional paraffin wax candles are derived from petroleum and can emit harmful toxins.

♥ **Food and Drinks.** Buy food from local growers and farmers markets. It is often less expensive than the supermarket and it supports your local economy. Try to incorporate organic products into your party menu.

♥ **Glassware and Flatware.** Use glassware and silverware instead of disposable plastic cups and utensils. You may have a bit more cleanup at the end (thank goodness for the dishwasher) but you'll feel great not adding to the enormous amount of paper and plastic that ends up in landfills. For a green party favor, buy glasses that fit your occasion such as wine or margarita glasses and decorate them with the name of each guest. Not only will your guests know which glass is theirs, but also they will go home with a fun party favor they can reuse.

♥ **Recycle.** Set up recycling areas at the party for cans, plastic cups, and other recyclable items so your guests know how to dispose of these items properly. This will also make your clean up a lot easier. (ARA)



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# Preparing bridal shower food

If you're planning a bridal shower, you want to make it a relaxing, fun time for everyone - and right at the center of the fun is good food. Here are some time-saving tips and recipes from the Simply Organic test kitchen to help you get the food under control and host a simple but sensational shower for the bride.

♥ Have each guest bring a dessert or appetizer and share the recipes with the new bride.

♥ Provide great-tasting, nutritious snacks that also go easy on artificial additives, salt, fat, sugar and other potentially unhealthy ingredients.

♥ For enticing, freshly made dips without fuss, use high quality organic dip mixes. Just add a creamy dill, French onion, guacamole or ranch dip mix to equal parts low-fat cottage cheese and non-fat plain yogurt and mix in a blender until smooth.

♥ Take easy-to-prepare favorites and dress them up. Try distinctive seasoning blends like curry or Italian seasoning. A seasoned sugar



combination like lemon sugar or cinnamon sugar will add a gourmet touch to your tea. Or add a touch of a spice like tarragon or a

chili powder seasoning blend to your usual deviled eggs, and you'll instantly have something out of the ordinary. (ARA)

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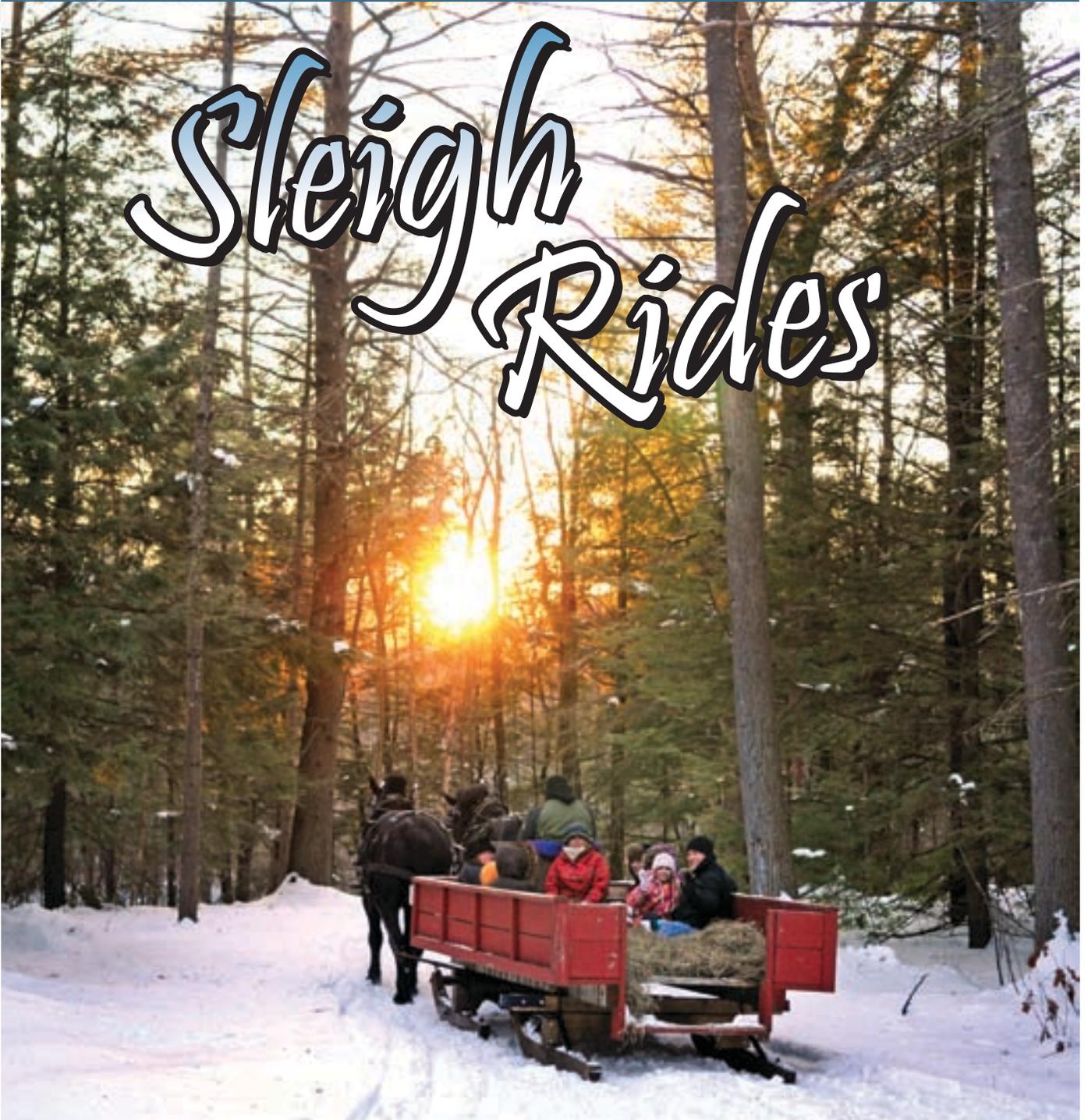
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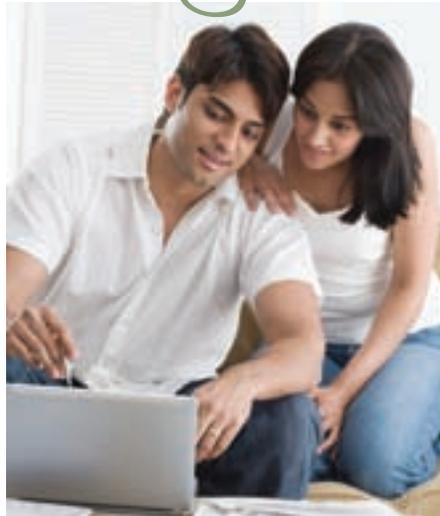
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# Bliss-building money tips

You're finalizing wedding plans and are eager to sip champagne with your guests. But are you and your fiancé prepared to marry your financial lives together once the "I do's" are said, and you've returned home from your honeymoon in paradise? Poll after poll shows that disagreements over finances are the No. 1 cause of divorce in America. Finance experts encourage couples to discuss and plan their finances together before tying the knot. Some tips couples can follow include:

**1. Pick a non-emotional time to talk about finances.** This discussion could potentially be stressful, and doesn't mix well with the stresses of wedding planning. Make sure you pick a quiet time without the distractions.

**2. Talk about your finances.** Determine if you and your fiancé are spenders, savers, or a mixture of the two. Also discuss what you'll be bringing into the marriage -- debts, child-support payments, lack of credit, etc. Look up your credit reports and scores together, and determine if you'll be better



protected by joining your accounts or keeping them separate.

**3. Decide how you'll track and pay for expenses.** Who is going to be paying what bills? What is your family budget going to look like? Can both of you live comfortably

off that budget? These are important decisions that should be made before the grand march down the aisle occurs.

**4. Establish joint investment goals.** You need to consider both short-term and long-term goals, ranging from buying a new car to putting your future children through college. If you're combining families, decisions about investing need to be taken care of immediately. For all your investing goals, talk about your time frame for reaching each goal.

**5. Diversify your portfolios.** The adage "Don't put your eggs in one basket" comes into play here. As the recent economic crisis demonstrates, having finances invested in multiple areas prevents you from feeling as much pain when the markets suffer a set back. Go over your individual investments and investigate where you might be doubling up. You want to have a mix of investments to even out overall portfolio risk, although diversification cannot ensure against loss. (ARA)

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## You're engaged! Now what?

Here are the top five questions you will need to answer to make your wedding planning journey a pleasant experience. Brides should begin their planning by answering five basic questions.



**1. What is our budget?** "Funding your wedding can be one of the most expensive undertakings you'll tackle in your life together as a couple," Miller says. Setting - and sticking to - a budget for your wedding is an essential step toward starting your married life on a sound financial footing.

**2. What season works?** Virtually as soon as you announce you're engaged, people start asking what the wedding date will be. To make answering that question as simple as possible, start by considering in what season you would like to be married. Would you prefer a spring ceremony? Or do you dream of a holiday wedding? By narrowing down the season, and selecting it well in advance, you'll be able to

secure a date that will work for everyone.

**3. Where do we want to get married and have our reception?** Will you have a destination wedding? Or do you want to keep it local? While wedding planning is usually most successful when done well in advance, if you're interested in a destination wedding, planning far ahead is essential.

**4. What kind of venue do you want?** Do you dream of a big church wedding? Or saying your "I do's" in a beautiful natural setting? Perhaps you want your reception to be in a grand hotel. Knowing the type of venue you desire will help you refine your options and choose a specific location down the road.

**5. Who do you want to officiate?** Is it important to you to be married by your own church's minister? Or are you OK with a justice of the peace? Do you fantasize about being joined in marriage by a ship's captain? Or does your mother have her heart set on seeing you married by the rabbi who was there at your bat mitzvah? Just as popular venues book quickly, favorite officiants also have their dance cards fill fast for popular wedding seasons. As soon as you know who you would like to officiate at your wedding, it might pay to approach him or her and find out about future availability. (ARA)



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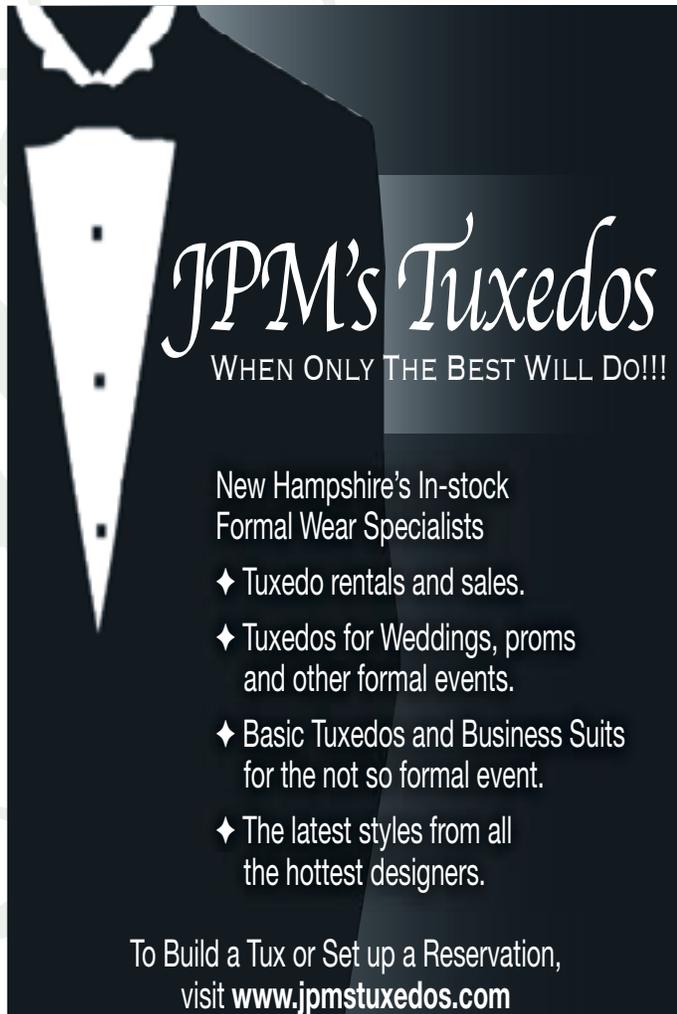


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# Maid of honor? Be prepared

The role of the maid of honor can turn into a dress rehearsal for the day when it is your turn to be the bride. The bride's maid of honor typically has a very close personal relationship with the bride and often serves as confidant and advisor on a variety of issues. Preparations can include selecting wedding colors; choosing the bridesmaid dresses, the caterer and flowers; identifying a location for the wedding and the reception; and hosting a bridal shower.



This position of honor can be loaded with a lot of work and responsibility as well as a lot of fun.

Typical maid-of-honor duties often include shopping with the bride, arranging transportation for the bridal party, communicating plans and responsibilities to the bridal party, selecting and sending out wedding invitations, ensuring the bridal party gets to rehearsals on time, helping during the rehearsal dinner and other events and making sure the reception runs smoothly.

"Deciding to marry is a big step and preparing for a wedding is an extremely stressful process," says Dr. Douglas Whiteside, director of the Argosy University Seattle Psychology Center. "The bride needs reliable and trusted people around her to help make decisions and transact business. Therefore, the role of the maid of honor is critical in helping the bride cope with the demands of planning a wedding and preparing for a new life."

She also has official duties such as signing the marriage license along with the best man and participating in the first dance with the best man, holding the groom's ring during the ceremony, holding the bride's bouquet during the ceremony and toasting the newlyweds during the reception.

Then there are the tender tasks of helping to prepare the bride just before her grand march down the aisle by fixing her hair, adjusting the veil and wiping tears to avoid smudging makeup, along with the tedious task of helping to keep track of the wedding gifts and money cards.

Lest we forget, the toughest task for the maid of honor is the unofficial duty of keeping the bride calm, being a sounding board for the her. On top of all that, the best maid of honor must be a good listener in order to provide the necessary emotional support the bride needs leading up to and the day of the wedding, as she prepares for the start of her new life. (ARA)

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