

A wedding day is of course a very expensive time. Try some of the Weddings Online top ways to save money on your big day.

PLANNING

1. Weddings Online We Do Card

The 'We Do' Privilege card entitles you to an ever-increasing range of discounts from our 'We Do' directory of over 6,000 suppliers across Ireland, North and South.

GUEST LIST <http://www.weddingsonline.ie/wedo/>

2. Cut Your Guest List

You mustn't rely on people not attending on your guest list for the final number. Try to form a patterned plan and stick to it. You could start by eliminating children, colleagues.

3. Hard Skin

Don't be shy about asking for discounts when booking any vendors.

RECEPTION

4. Time

Chose a time where you can avail of a discount. A lot of hotels offer discounts for weddings held between November and April, or weddings on a Monday to Thursday

5. Negotiate

Hotels Need your business, and they will be anxious to please on inspection. You should try to negotiate during these stages, and you could get some freebies thrown in.

FOOD & DRINK

6. Bring your own

Buying your own wine is a good way to save money. Keep an eye out for offers from companies that sell wines as two for the price of one offers crop up every so often. You could also try to negotiate corkage fees from your hotel.

7. Toast

Combine the toast with the first round of drinks.

8. Alter the Menu

Cut one item from the menu. Replace a fancy appetizer with a consommé, and you could save more than 2 Euro per person.

9. Instruction

In the case you are having a round of drinks bought by yourself, instruct the hotel to limit this to a single drink, so your guests don't go all out on your expense.

10. Don't Serve Dessert

Many hotels include dessert on the menu and the price; let yours know you want to serve the wedding cake for dessert.

WEDDING-DAY ATTIRE

11. Sale dresses

Search out sales for discounted gowns. But don't leave it too long; if you haven't found something 7 months prior to the wedding consider other options.

12. Borrow dresses

If you have someone you could borrow from, consider this, as you can get the dress altered to fit you.

Bridesmaid's dresses could also be borrowed.

13. Second hand

There are lots of brides willing to sell on their precious gowns. Remember these have probably only been worn once. If you have it cleaned and fitted, it will be like brand new. Weddings Online have there very own Buy and Sell forum now. You can find it at [www.weddingsonline.ie/ forums](http://www.weddingsonline.ie/forums)

BEAUTY

14. Trials

You can choose the option to skip something such as a trial, especially with hair.

15. False Tans

Go for a half body tan instead of the full body, it almost cuts the price in half!

FLOWERS & DÉCOR

16. D-I-Y

Brides Bouquets, do it yourself. There are plenty of books on the market now that have step by step guides on making your own wedding flowers.

17. Go for in-season flowers

Check out our article on Flowers in Season for a guide to what is in season around your wedding.

<http://www.weddingsonline.ie/resources/article.asp?id=2318>

18. Forget the fancy stuff

You don't need favors for your wedding, and chances are no one will even notice.

19. Table decoration

While negotiating with your venue, find out if they will supply centerpieces. Remember that candles are cheaper than flowers, and you could make a beautiful setting with candelabras (there are many companies that

hire such things out for the day.)

20. Cut back

Details are often passed by as there is so much going on. You can easily cut back on details in areas such as pew ends in the church. Instead of having flowers, you could have ribbon.

INVITATIONS & STATIONERY

21. D-I-Y

A lot of companies now offer you the tools to design and create your own invitations and mass booklets.

22. Minimize RSVP Costs

Have guests reply on their own stationery. Better yet, ask guests to email their RSVPs.

23. Save on Save-the-Dates

Instead of choosing cards specifically made for wedding purposes choose some plain cards, and add your own personal message.

MUSIC

24. Phone a friend

The likelihood of you knowing someone who plays an instrument is quite high, so put on your thinking cap, and ask a friend to play the music for your ceremony.

25. Entertainment

Decide on what you really want first, and if you can do without a band, ask a DJ to do the full night instead of having both.

26. Contacts

Your hotel may have contacts and you could get a discount on a band/DJ.

PHOTO & VIDEO

27. Time for Photographer

Decide again what you really want. You could ask the photographer to skip the house and meet at the ceremony. This can cut costs drastically.

28. Packages

The most important thing is having the photos not the album when it comes down to it. Ask your photographer to quote you for photos only and you can purchase the album at a time you can afford it.

29. No special FX

Ask if your videographer will do a scaled-back package for, and eliminate special effects or extra editing.

TRANSPORTATION

30. Squeeze

A limo can seat usually 8, so instead of hiring two cars, you could all leave together, mum dad, bridesmaids. The driver could drop off the bridesmaids and bring you and your dad around the block.

31.

Guests transport

Don't fall for the 'Well every wedding I went to had transport'. How do your guests usually get around when going places? Leave them to their own devices, and they can sort themselves out.

THE HONEYMOON

32. Honeymoon at Home

Instead of booking an exotic month long break consider staying in Ireland or Europe. You can always have that exotic break on your 5th anniversary.

33. Surfing

Surf the web for deals on holidays.

34. Last minute

If you are willing to take chances, well why not leave the honeymoon until the last minute. It's not everyone's cup of tea, but you could end up with an excellent honeymoon for a fraction of the price.

GET HELP

35. Borrow the Basics

When it comes to weddings, friends and relatives are often glad to help out. From shoes to cars, don't dismiss any offers too quickly.