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Bridal Guide

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President Gordon B. Hinckley
“Living Worthy of the Girl You Will Someday Marry.”
April 1998 General Conference.
**Temple Recommends**

Schedule an interview with your bishop to obtain a Recommend for Living Ordinances for your own endowment (if not previously endowed) and for the temple marriage/sealing. If you have previously been married in the temple, discuss the next steps with your bishop.

After your interview with the bishop, schedule a temple recommend interview with your stake president. Receive your endowment on or before your wedding day.

On the day of the wedding, bring to the temple:

- Your individual Recommend for Living Ordinances (both bride and groom)
- Marriage license

---

**Clothing Standards**

**BRIDES**

Your wedding dress should meet the following temple guidelines:

- Be white. No off-white, ivory or cream-colored dresses. Please avoid fastened color ribbons, sequins and elaborate ornamentation. Colored sashes, worn for photographs and reception activities, will need to be removed in the temple.
- Have long sleeves. If your dress has short sleeves, the temple can provide a bolero or sleeve inserts.
- Have a modest neckline, and be modest in design and fabric. Sheer fabric should be lined.
- Have a removable train or one that can be pinned up or fastened out of the way.

If a wedding dress does not meet the guidelines above, you may wish to wear one of the wedding dresses available at the temple. Wedding dresses should always cover the sacred garments. Temple garments should not be altered or removed in order to accommodate the style of the wedding dress. Brides being endowed the same day as their marriage or sealing may wear a white temple dress (available at the temple if needed) for the endowment session.

**GROOMS**

White temple clothing is worn for the marriage ceremony.

---

“Let us make the temple, with temple worship and temple covenants and temple marriage, our ultimate earthly goal and the supreme mortal experience.”

President Howard W. Hunter


[Image of a temple with statistical data and a quote from President Howard W. Hunter]
Invitations set the tone of the wedding. They provide the essential information, but they don’t need to be extravagant.

“Invitations should say something about your personality, your event, how it’s going to look and how nice it’s going to be, but they can be kept simple,” said Becky Miller of White Willows Reception Center.

Wedding expenses can quickly add up, and without a budget and some strategic planning, the price can easily skyrocket. Before making any major purchases, the bride and groom should set a budget according to their personal preferences and financial resources. Deciding how much to spend is not an easy task. On the one hand, a wedding is a once in a lifetime event, but on the other, it’s only one day. Use this guide to decide what to spend and where to splurge.

“It really depends on the preferences and interests of the bride and groom,” said Shelley Chambers, of Signature Weddings. “They should splurge on what’s important to them and then look to save in other areas.”

Save on food, but keep it tasty. Flavor and presentation are important, but Miller said weddings don’t need to provide a huge dinner for everyone.

“A beautiful dessert, pastry buffet or some really nice finger foods can be great,” she said. “Make what you have nice for your guests – acknowledge them with something nice, but it doesn’t have to be huge.”

The dress is a focal point and something to splurge on, said Janay Frank, employee at the Bridal Center. “If you feel beautiful then your whole wedding will glow,” Frank said.

When deciding between dresses, Frank suggests getting “the one” (within reason, of course) and avoiding the regret that comes from choosing the second-choice dress with a nicer price tag. As for renting, Frank said it can be a cheaper option, but it might not satisfy. If brides are looking to get money back on their dresses, selling the dress after the wedding is one way to go, she said.
The cake can taste and look amazing and add a unique element to your wedding. "You can serve the cake to your guests. You don't need anything else," said Chambers. "We've moved beyond that and we try to entertain with more, but then the cake ends up not getting eaten. Make it the show piece that it could be."

Other than a new spouse, it's the only thing the bride and groom take away from the wedding. They only have one shot to capture it to remember it forever. "Don't skimp on photography," Frank said. "You will look back at those pictures forever."

With plenty of options, the choice of venue is a great opportunity for couples to save. Look around! "Couples can save a lot of money on where they hold their wedding," Chambers said. "A backyard, a church, a community center - they are a lot cheaper than some of the wedding venues around."

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The bride naturally draws a lot of attention on her wedding day, but that doesn’t mean the groom can haphazardly toss on a pair of old sneakers and call it good. A tailored look will help the groom feel like a sleek man with whom his bride wants to spend eternity rather than a junior prom date. Here is what he needs to know about his wedding day wardrobe and how to look “groomed” on any budget.

Simple

Use his suit Match his Sunday suit to any occasion. It is easy to dress it up by adding a crisp pocket square and wearing a white French cuff shirt combined with classy cufflinks. He will look great and you won’t break the bank.

Standard

Buy a suit If he is more of the investment type, a new suit can look impressive on your wedding day and every job interview afterward. Suit colors can range from black, gray, charcoal, navy and tan. There are many options to coordinate with the season of your wedding.

Select

Wear a tux A black tux with a black bow tie is timeless and classy. When renting, there is no unnecessary worry about forgetting the suspenders or laundering. All he needs to do is show up looking great and get ready for happily ever after.
The Skyroom’s breath-taking views and delicious menu make it the ideal location for your wedding celebration. Leave the details to us and we will create the perfect day for you. Available for: Rehearsal Dinners, Wedding Breakfasts, Luncheons, Dinners.
Not all diamonds are created equally. A diamond’s quality and value is rated according to four Cs. These categories allow jewelers to price diamonds and ultimately price an engagement ring. It is essential to know the basics before walking into any jeweler’s door.

**The Four Cs**

**Carat**
Carat weight is simply the measure of the size of the diamond. Whether a setting features a single center stone or a setting embedded with dozens of small diamonds, the average total diamond weight on a ring has been consistent.

**Cut**
When measuring the value of a stone, perhaps the most important C is the cut grade, which measures the proportions of the stone, not the shape. A good cut allows light to be reflected off the internal faces of the culet (the bottom point of the diamond) and back out through the crown. An ideal cut is what makes your diamond sparkle.

**Color**
Two diamonds of the same carat weight can have different price tags, but there might be a visible difference in the color. Diamonds are graded on a color scale: D being the most colorless and Z being diluted yellow brown.

**Clarity**
Diamonds often have flaws, meaning inclusions and blemishes. The amount of flaws a diamond has determines its clarity grade ranging from flawless (FL) to imperfect (I3), which ultimately determines the value of the diamond; however, internal flaws do not necessarily affect the appearance of the diamond.

---

**Illustrations and Top Photo by James Gardner**
Shape

There are dozens of unique gem shapes and choosing the right shape can be a difficult decision. Here are some delightfully popular options.

**Princess** Princess cuts are a versatile shape that can be set as a square on a band or turned 45 degrees and set on point.

**Round** Round cuts are also popular. With smooth edges, the round cut will adapt to most settings.

**Pear** The distinctively shaped pear cut is growing in popularity and can make a unique center stone.

**Marquise** Marquise cuts were popular during the 1990s and are now making a comeback. With two points and round sides, marquise diamonds may look a little larger than a simple round cut.

**Hybrid** Many cuts combine the fluidity of one style with the structure of another. Cushion and emerald cuts are rectangular but have rounded edges. Hybrids make it easy to choose a complementary setting.

Metal

While some metals are more pure than others, all engagement ring metals are dependable to fasten the gems, so it’s a matter of taste and budget.

**White Gold** One of the most popular ring metals. It has the normal aspects of gold, but is alloyed to achieve a silver-white appeal.

**Yellow Gold** is a soft metal that is usually mixed with an alloy like copper, to give it strength and color.

**Palladium** Rare and naturally white. It sells for around the same price or more than gold.

**Platinum** Hypo-allergenic, extremely rare, durable and one of the most expensive metals.

**Tungsten** A strong and scratch resistant metal, but it can crack or break.

**Cobalt** is a white metal that is not as scratch resistant as tungsten, but less likely to crack or break.

**Sterling Silver** Much cheaper than gold and quickly becoming a popular alternative metal.

Settings

For a ring to have maximum appeal, the setting needs to complement the gem and the bride-to-be.

**Solitaire** A classic elegant style that features a single center stone on a solid band.

**Three Stone** A popular choice for women wanting more gems, the center stone is slightly larger than the side stones.

**Pavé** Adds extra sparkle with embedded small diamonds in the band leading to the center stone.

**Halo** Often combined with a pavé band and offers an antique and timeless look by encircling the center with small diamonds.

**Tension** Can be a funky alternative to the traditional pronged fasteners. Because it suspends the diamond with pressure from both sides of the band.
First comes love, then comes marriage. Then comes taking his last name. Changing your name involves many steps. The most important seems to be obtaining a certified copy of a marriage license.

“When you first get your [marriage] license, a part of the $50 fee that you pay includes a certified copy,” said Bryan Thompson, the Utah County clerk/auditor.

This certified copy of your marriage license will be taken to the Social Security Office, Department of Motor Vehicles and BYU records office to make the name change legal.

“Once married, you’ll need your new Social Security card and birth certificate to change the name on your license,” said Kaab, a customer service representative for the Utah Department of Public Safety.

There is no charge to change a name on a Social Security card, but a driver’s license name change in Utah costs $18 – $25.

BYU students have an extra step in the process. The records office at BYU handles all changes to marital status and student names when you bring in your updated social security card.

Caitlyn Cope, an office specialist in the BYU records office, said the process is usually about five to 10 minutes, and although there are a few steps to completing a name change, most brides are happy to take their husband’s names.

“Usually brides seem happy to be in the office changing their names,” Cope said. “A lot of them are with their husbands at the time. Changing their name is kind of a fun experience.”
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There are few details of the wedding that get as much attention as the dress. Finding the dress you have spent years dreaming of and months looking for can sometimes be as hard as finding the groom. Your dress should be a reflection of your personality, not your pocketbook. Here are options that will look amazing and fit in any budget along with pros and cons to each choice.

**SIMPLE**

**Rent a dress**

Wear it once and with no worry about laundering or preservation. Affordable rental gowns and accessories look fabulous on your wedding day as well as helping your budget.

- Tends to be a more economic option
- Standard alterations, accessories and cleaning included in the price
- Don’t have to worry about preservation or storage
- Dress must be returned; you can’t keep it
- Might not have the style you want
- Only standard alterations available

**Your Desired Dress**

BY JANI CRAWLEY & JANE QUANSAH

DRESS FROM GOWNS BY PAMELA

PHOTO BY KELSI MONSEN PHOTOGRAPHY
Buy a dress

Enjoy preparing for your wedding, not worrying about your dress. There is an abundance of dresses to choose from in many different shops, price ranges and designers. Once you have found the dress, buying it off-the-rack is painless.

- Relatively quick and easy, find the dress you can’t live without and that’s it
- Walk away with the dress the day you find it
- Alter or embellish the dress to your heart’s content

- Shops might not have the exact style you are looking for
- There are multiple dresses in one style
- Alterations for temple standards might be necessary

Build a dress

Get the unique dress you have been dreaming of made just for you. Custom design is an individual process with many fittings and customizations. Find a wedding dress designer and you are ready to get started.

- Get exactly what you want
- Unique dress no one else has
- Keep it forever

- It takes time to make a custom dress, planning ahead is essential
- Many fittings throughout the process
- Individualized attention can cost more
Pleased to Announce

Your wedding invitation can be the key component in setting the stage for your big day. Whether formal or casual, the world of electronic publishing has opened the door to inspiration and cost-effective options.

Today’s bride has a myriad of options before her. From classic letterpress to affordable digital printing—or a combination of both—the options are endless.

Price is determined mainly by the type of printing process, quality of paper and add-ons to the invitation suite.

Higher quality paper, letterpress printing and embellishments such as ribbon, lace, pockets and additional enclosures will enhance the customization of your invite—as well as the price.

The type of invitation is just as important as what it says, try these options for your budget.

**Color Laser**
Similar to your computer printer, this type of printing can execute large amounts of prints in a short amount of time. Heat is used to fuse the toner, or dry ink, to the paper. It gets the job done without tipping your budget bucket.

**Offset**
Ink is transferred from a metal plate to a rubber blanket and then on to paper. This type of printing is very cost-effective for high volume and high quality. There is nothing complicated about it.

**Letterpress**
A frame with the design and lettering is used to press into the paper. This technique leaves an impression in the paper. Proving that individuality is key, letterpress invitations are done individually and can be a more expensive option.
Every wedding invitation is special and it will proudly hold its spot on many refrigerators and calendars. Whether your design is modern or traditional, here are some tips for announcing your marriage to the world.

1. Traditionally the bride’s parents announce the wedding, with pleasure, excitement, thrill, etc.

2. Use the full temple name followed by the full name of the Church (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints). If needed, use LDS on other references in the announcement.

3. Wording can reflect the type of reception. If it is more formal say, “join us.” If the reception is more relaxed, “celebrate with us” is more appropriate.

4. If the ceremony is being held in a religious location, you can use “request the honor of your presence.” If the location is not a religious location, then “request the pleasure of your company.”

5. In the most formal protocol, there is no reference made to a parent who has passed away. But it is appropriate to use “the late” to precede the name of the deceased parent if desired.

6. It is not necessary to include wedding registry information in the invitation.

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TO

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In this age of technology and mass communication, a hand-written note remains the proper and polite way to thank someone for a wedding gift.

“Time and resources were expended on your behalf, and a thank you note is the way to recognize the generous spirit of others,” said Candilyn Newell, who teaches an etiquette class at Brigham Young University.

Newell said the notes should be handwritten as a way to show appreciation by taking the time to write a note.

The sooner the thank you notes are written and sent the better. But Emilypost.com suggests not using being late getting the thank you notes done as an excuse not to write.

Newell said it is best to send notes as soon as possible because those who have generously given gifts would like to know the newly married couple safely received the gift.

“Those who say you have up to six months to send a thank you note, but I would really encourage the idea that sooner is better – avoiding any awkward personal interaction should you meet those who celebrated your marriage so thoughtfully,” she said.

Thank you notes can seem overwhelming. Here are some tips from EmilyPost.com to help tackle the task:

**DO**

- Send your notes quickly.
- Mention the gift (saying money amount is not necessary).
- Personalize your notes and make reference to the person as well as the gift.
- Remember that a gift should be acknowledged with the same courtesy and generous spirit in which it was given.
- Be enthusiastic, but don’t gush. Avoid saying a gift is the most beautiful thing you have ever seen unless you really mean it.
- Promptly acknowledge the receipt of shipped gifts by sending a note right away or calling and following up with a written note in a day or two.

**DON’T**

- Send form letters or cards with printed messages and just your signature.
- Use email or post a generic thank you on your wedding website in lieu of a personal note.
- Mention you plan to return a gift or are dissatisfied in any way.
- Tailor your note to the perceived value of the gift; no one should receive a perfunctory note.
- Include wedding photos or use photo cards if it will delay sending the note.
- Use being late as an excuse not to write. Even if you are still sending notes after your first anniversary, keep writing.
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Research has broken down predictors of marital satisfaction into four basic areas. Tom Holman, a professor of Family Studies at BYU and co-author of “Preparing for an Eternal Marriage,” gives suggestions of appropriate discussion topics with a prospective spouse.

**Surrounding Context**

Parent and friend approval are positively related to later marital quality.

Are our parents, family and friends supportive of our marriage?

Are we comfortable with the members of each other’s families?

Where will we spend significant holidays?

What are our plans for the future?

What are our career goals, and what are we willing to sacrifice for a career?

Will we let our jobs determine where we live, or will we let our location determine which jobs we take?

What schooling is needed to accomplish our career goals?

**Family Background**

The healthier the family background, the happier the marriage.

What kind of marriage did your mother and father have?

What aspects of their marriage do you want to incorporate into our marriage?

What was your family environment like?

What would you like our family environment to be like?

Are there any aspects of your family that might have an affect on our family?

How involved will in-laws be in our family?
“It is so rewarding to be married. Marriage is wonderful. In time you begin to think alike and have the same ideas and impressions. You have times when you are extremely happy, times of testing and times of trial, but the Lord guides you through all of those growth experiences together.”

Elder Richard G. Scott
“The Eternal Blessings of Marriage”
April 2011 General Conference

How is your relationship with your mother and father?

How do we want to discipline our children?

How many children do we want?

When do we want to begin having children?

How much space do we want between each child?

Couple Interactional Process
The most powerful predictor of marital success five years later.

How do we resolve conflict and disagreements effectively?

How is our communication with each other?

Are you comfortable with the way and frequency with which we express love for one another?

What are our family’s expenses?

Can we commit to living on a budget?

Who will pay the bills?

Do we have similar financial "philosophies” about how to use our money?

What are our financial goals for now and the future?

Who will be the primary “breadwinner” and “caregiver”?

Personal Characteristics
Characteristics that are most influential on marital success include impulse control, emotional health, sociability and self-esteem.

Do you anticipate your personality, attitudes or beliefs affecting our relationship?

How do you handle stressful situations?

Are there any emotional illnesses that need to be addressed?
The cost of a wedding can be staggering to say the least. Many brides choose to do the work themselves. Do It Yourself, or DIY, wedding projects enable couples to lower the cost and add a personal touch to their wedding.

DIY flowers are a popular project to add quick, easy pizazz to any aspect of your wedding. Flowers can be made of tissue paper, fabric or scrapbook paper to match perfectly with wedding colors and themes. They can be made into centerpieces, garlands, boutonnieres or substituted almost anywhere real flowers would be used at a reception.

1. Start with a long strip of paper.

2. Make small, even, accordion-style folds in a single direction.

3. With the entire strip folded, cut one end for the petal shape.

4. The shape of the cut will determine the look of the final product.

5. Unfold the paper and roll it loosely around itself as you squeeze the uncut end firmly for the base. Looser rolling results in fuller blossoms.

6. Tie the base with string, wire or tape and trim the excess paper.
The wedding dress, invitations, flowers and photography are anticipated by most couples, but other expenses may surprise the bride and groom as their big day approaches. Always get a written quote from vendors to lessen the blow. While setting aside a wedding emergency fund for unforeseen expenses, couples should focus first on the most important costs such as the reception, wedding dress and cake. Here are some expenses to consider in addition to those expected.

**Dress**
A bride may find her dress at a reasonable price, but fail to consider the cost of additional accessories such as a slip, veil, shoes or alterations.

**Reception Center**
Always get a written quote and inquire about additional service charges when talking to an event planner or facility manager. Some event facilities charge catering or service fees upward of 20 percent of the rental cost or require special event insurance – good for inclement weather or unforeseen problems.

**Honeymoon**
When everything is planned and paid for, your perfect getaway could have unexpected mishaps. A new passport, baggage fees, travel insurance or new attire for the location can add to the final bill.

**Ever After**
When the honeymoon is over and real life begins, there are other costs that need to be anticipated such as health insurance, furniture, car insurance, renter or homeowner insurance, taxes and name change fees.

---

“Plan ahead and look at these costs early on, so that you don’t build up something in your mind that you’re hoping for and then realize that there just aren’t sufficient funds to pay for it.”

Sheri Hulet
Financial adviser

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**The Perfect Place for Your Perfect Day**

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A wedding can be a pricey affair. In Utah, the average bride pays approximately $6,000 for her wedding, which is relatively low compared to the $20,000 national average. No matter the budget, there are a lot of different options for brides planning their perfect day.

Food
There are almost infinite possibilities for the food you can serve at your reception. Janessa Brunt, a senior in nursing, and her fiance chose to serve food that reflected their personality. “We did a crepe bar with lots of toppings and a cereal bar, buffet style,” Brunt said. “We chose that food because Ryan and I really love cereal and crepes. It made it seem more family friendly.”

Simple
Serve guests a dessert buffet. This way, guests can still try a variety of food, but the bride’s family doesn’t have to foot everyone’s dinner bill. Dessert buffets can also be set up for free by family or friends, rather than a caterer.

Standard
Have a professionally catered buffet dinner. Caterers can prepare a variety of foods in reception quantities. By hiring a caterer, brides can shop around and choose exactly the foods they want.

Select
For couples who want to pamper their guests, hold a formal sit-down dinner reception with beef, fish, prime rib or lobster. This can cost up to $100 per person, so couples may want to consider cutting down the guest list or choosing a more inexpensive dish like chicken.

Places
Michelle Cousins, owner of Utah Events by Design, says there are many great places for a reception, regardless of budget. Utah has a lot of wedding venues because of the number of weddings held each season.

Simple
Free reception locations like backyards, friend’s homes or church buildings are the best places for wedding receptions on a budget. However, these spaces usually need some work to transform into a proper wedding spot. Cousins said the bride can end up spending more money on tents, linens and chairs than they would for a venue, so costs should be taken into consideration.

Standard
Reception centers like Noah’s, Millennial Falls and Woods on Ninth are generally moderately priced and equipped to handle large events. Brides can get creative with locations such as restaurants, parks, theaters, orchards, beaches or art galleries. These settings provide a unique wedding experience and may be rented for minimal cost.

Select
Deluxe locations include five-star hotels, historic sites or venues in big cities or resort towns. According to a survey by theknot.com, destination weddings have risen 20 percent since 2008. Couples can choose any city in the world for their special day, but destination
weddings are often smaller because guests will require full accommodations.

Decor
For wedding decor, the possibilities are nearly endless, but sometimes less is more. Jamie Bellessa of Bellessa Designs says using a tasteful eye to edit details can create a big impact.

“Lately I’ve seen a lot of overdone, overly thematic and cheesy weddings,” Bellessa said. “Stick with a simple color scheme. When you start to layer photos and a bunch of random accessories you lose focus and it becomes overwhelming. Simple doesn’t mean it can’t be extravagant.”

SIMPLE
A beautiful reception venue may not need much decor. Many brides showcase their own decorations or meaningful heirlooms. Flowers can be ordered cheaply from Costco and arranged by a friend, but make sure the friend has experience and has the arrangements approved beforehand.

STANDARD
Florists or decorators who work out of their homes are able to charge less because they do not have the same overhead fees as big floral shops. Flowers can also cost 75 percent less if they’re in season.

SELECT
For a select budget event, brides may want to use dressed-up linens, chairs, chair sashes, ceiling treatments and other decor elements. These components can help pull a wedding vision together nicely.

Cake
The cake cutting is a traditional part of the reception, but there are many more options for a variety of prices. Exercise and wellness graduate Hayley Henrie chose to serve cupcakes, along with a small cake for cutting.

“I wanted cupcakes because I love them, but also because people could pick from a bunch of different flavors,” Henrie said. “Also they can be a decorative item.”

SIMPLE
The number of guests to serve should determine your cake size. For brides set on a multi-tiered cake but on a tighter budget, rice cereal treats or foam can be used to make upper tiers of the cake that aren’t needed for serving.

STANDARD
Traditional wedding cakes generally have two or three tiers decorated with buttercream icing or fondant. Cakes now come in all shapes, sizes, colors and themes so couples can find a cake that suits them perfectly.

SELECT
Cakes with more tiers are the ultimate in wedding cakes. Tall standing cakes can look impressive, but prices can reach into the thousands and may be more cake than you need. Flowers, piping and other decorative elements can be used to customize the cake and make it more exquisite.
When your big day finally comes and everything has been planned down to the detail, you can only cross your fingers that it turns out flawlessly. Sometimes, things change – creating wedding day mishaps that can be laughed about later.

“During our reception, my cousins decided they were going to decorate our getaway car. When everyone came outside, they realized they’d hit the wrong car — one that belonged to my wife’s single 60-something-year-old aunt.”

Chad Barton, married 3 years

“The supposed ‘blizzard of the century’ was expected to hit last Thanksgiving. So we left our ski resort honeymoon a day early because they told us the slopes would be closed. That night we ended up staying in a smelly motel in the middle of nowhere that was more expensive than our resort suite. When we got back to Provo, there was not a single snowflake in sight and the ski slopes were packed.”

Bekah Vanderhorst, married 1 year

“During the reception, it started pouring rain so we had to move the entire dinner inside. Of course, by the time we got it all in the house, it had stopped raining and the rest of the night was gorgeous.”

Dallin Grow, married 3 years
“When we went to cut the cake, I tried to pull off the decorative ribbon around one of the tiers. Instead, I knocked the glass temple off the top of the cake and broke the spires. Our family got it all on video.”

Christina Parker, married 2 years

“We had our marriage license sent to my hometown in St. Louis, but when we went to pick it up, my fiance realized he’d left his Social Security card in Utah. We had to have a friend break into his apartment and ship it overnight to get it in time.”

Morgan Petty, married 4 months

“We had a videographer record our entire reception, but when we got the final product, it only had the last 20 minutes, completely unedited. Looking back in the box, we missed three things: a cashier’s check, a videocassette, and a note that said: ‘Frank lost some of the tape. Sorry bro.’”

Emmaleigh Burtoft, married 8 months

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ILLUSTRATIONS BY JAMES GARDNER
The “I Do” Agenda

4 MONTHS BEFORE

- Set date, time and place
- Schedule time for sealing at the temple and endowment date and time
- Find wedding planner
- Figure out budget
- Decide who is paying for what
- Decide on theme and colors
- Select and reserve place for reception
- Choose photographer
- Take engagement pictures
- Find dress and, if needed, alter to temple standards

3 MONTHS BEFORE

- Decide on wedding party
- Pick out or order bridesmaids’ dresses
- Find tux store
- Schedule reception music
- Choose groom’s ring
- Plan honeymoon and make reservations

- Select and reserve place for luncheon/pre-wedding dinner
- Start to gather guest lists and addresses (keep a copy for thank you notes)
- Decide who you want at temple sealing (check for number of people that can fit) and luncheon
- Ask two people to be witnesses at wedding (usually fathers)
- Discuss finances, transportation, education and long- and short-term plans with fiance
- Schedule temple recommend interview with bishop and stake president

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2 Months Before
- Start addressing announcements
- Register at two or three stores
- Pick out pictures for reception slideshow
- Find place to live
- Decide on favors and order necessary items
- Make pre-marital checkup appointment
- Shop for veil, comfortable wedding shoes and jewelry

6 Weeks Before
- Send announcements
- Take bridal pictures
- Make hair appointment (appointment must finish two hours before sealing)
- Trial run for your hair appointment and bring your veil (perhaps on the same day you take bridal pictures)
- Purchase gifts for bridesmaids
- Decide menu for luncheon/pre-wedding dinner and reception

1 Month Before
- Get marriage license (no more than 30 days before wedding date; licenses and/or Social Security cards may be needed)
- Schedule makeup appointment or experiment with how you want to do your makeup
- Dry clean gown

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2 WEEKS BEFORE
- Follow up on reservations: florist, photographer, cake, reception music and honeymoon accommodations
- Meet photographer about specific pictures you want
- Have groom get haircut
- Pick “get-a-way” outfit
- Buy cake knife. server and guest book

1 WEEK BEFORE
- Get manicure and pedicure
- Pack for honeymoon
- Pick up tuxedos
- Take survival kit (needle and thread, extra bobby pins, safety pins, bottle of water, etc.)
- Enjoy one of the best days of your life!

DAY OF WEDDING
- Eat light breakfast
- Go to hair and makeup appointments
- Be at the temple when specified (usually one hour early)
- Don’t forget your marriage license, temple recommends, rings and wedding dress

AFTER THE HONEYMOON
- Make sure to change your name on your license, Social Security card and on school records
- Change insurance coverage
- Change address
- Write thank you notes

Thank You!
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