

PLEASE PLEASE  
DON'T WASTE YOUR MONEY

# THINGS THAT END UP IN THE BIN

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IN OUR HUMBLE OPINION...



Whether you are planning on a budget or simply practicing smart spending it is important to invest in things that add value to your wedding experience. There is no worse feeling than allocating funds for something we think will be a hit but then turns out to be a flop - wasted money, wasted time, not to mention more waste in our landfills.

We have planned countless events (and played guest at countless more) and we believe that every dollar spent + every ounce of energy needs to equate to something meaningful. Meaningful for the couple, Meaningful for their family & friends. Meaningful for the event as a whole. In other words, it needs to have an impact. Yes, yes a wedding is about details but there is a fine line between something that adds value vs something that just adds more fluff, especially if you are working within a budget because let's be honest - fluff doesn't come cheap.

This list could be a lot more comprehensive but in the interest of time here is 1 item that you can eliminate all together and 2 that you can pare down significantly. Not only will you save some of your precious time & hard earned money, your guests will not even notice these things are missing.

# FAVORS

## DITCH EM' ALL TOGETHER

That's right, get rid of the wedding favors. Free up that line item on your Wedding Balance Sheet and don't think twice about it.

Raise your hand if you have been to a wedding, or any event for that matter, where either you, your date or someone at your table forgot to take their favor with them at the end of the evening? Now raise your hand if you have been that poor someone who had to hit 3 Michaels Stores just to get enough pink satin bags to individually wrap a monogrammed trinket for over 100 guests. Favors are so very thoughtful but they are time consuming and add an additional expense that really don't leave much of an impact with your guest.

Favors are a longstanding tradition that some couples may want to maintain and that's awesome. Remember Wedding Rule #1 - You Do You. If this is you, may we recommend something that falls into the 'You Can Eat This' category of wedding favors because, let's get real, we all love to eat. A recent client of ours had chocolate Hershey Kisses which was really cool because their last name was Hersi. It was really clever, personal and inexpensive PLUS guests were able to enjoy it that evening.

On the whole though, when it comes to guest experience we would recommend investing in things like nice wine during dinner, a signature cocktail or a photobooth as these will leave a much stronger impression than those wedding favors that, even though are well intended, are probably bound for the trash bin.

# STATIONARY

## AND ALL THINGS PRINT

This is a category that we don't want to scrap but definitely want to pare down on. Remember our goal is to ensure that what we invest in has impact and when it comes to print materials we need to be smart as quality printing & beautiful stationary comes at a premium.

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Now the things that we print are intended to communicate something. Naturally we want that communication to look stylish and in step with our wedding aesthetic but don't forget that the functionality here is communication.

Save the dates and invitations communicate our wedding announcement + RSVP details, programs relay the schedule of events and then there is the myriad of signage, escort cards, table numbers & seating charts that are intended to direct guests where to go and what to do next. That's a lot. Not only from a cost perspective but also environmentally as let's face it - most of this is also bound for the trash.



A terrific solution is to go digital whenever you can, wherever you can. For instance a digital invite that links to a custom website is a great option as guest can RSVP in real time with their meal preference, song requests and plus one info. A website will also house all the event details, links to hotel accommodations plus there is the added bonus of a link to your contact numbers, social pages and registry.

Full on digital may not be an option. Grandma is not going digital and mom may shutter at the lack of formality, so perhaps you print a few for the family and your scrapbook but direct the masses to your site. A hybrid solution that is still a beautiful thing as we have eliminated a lot of paper and unnecessary postage.

We are actually big fans of signage and programs as they add an element of visual interest with the added bonus that they let guests know where to go and when to be there. That said we recommend only having programs for the reception; yes from a cost perspective but also so that your audience is not fanning or fidgeting with the paperwork while you are exchanging your vows.



Please also think about the elements. We always wear running shoes because the reality of life in a prairie town, set next to the mountains is wind. Wild, wild, volatile wind that will effortlessly blow your signs and programs away and despite our most Olympic sprint, will sometimes fly off into the horizon never to be seen again. Another great option is to invest in one large, poster size program that you can jazz up with some flowers or greenery. Larger in scale, this will be attention grabbing and have tremendous impact when placed next to an equally large + easy to read seating chart.



# FLORAL

## THE JAW DROPPING EXPENSE

Let me start with this. Absolutely under no circumstances should you compromise your wedding bouquet. When else will you get to adorn an accessory as artistically beautiful as bouquet of fresh floral and you deserve this honor PLUS it will showcase in every one of your wedding photos and it should be as stunning as you ... PS what will you do with your hands without one when you make that slow walk down the aisle?

Agreed, we invest in the bouquet - but as you have likely discovered floral is crazy expensive. Why you ask? Well again let's think about where we live and the sad fact that nothing really grows local so all things floral need to be sourced + shipped. Quality silk flowers are equally expensive if not more, and in our humble opinion, you just can't artificially recreate something as lovely and as fragrant as mother nature's blooms. But on the flip side to that, fresh flower has a short shelf life, and yes you guessed it, will end up in the bin at some point in the near future, making it hard to justify such a significant expense. So what to do?

- Re-purpose, re-purpose, re-purpose. Incorporating your floral from the ceremony into the reception space in creative ways will stretch your budget and make the expense worthwhile. You can mix and match the pairings to make it feel different and don't forget that you have all those bridal bouquets to work into the head table or throughout the space in an assortment of vases.
- Simple and sophisticated centerpieces. Remember your guests will be sat at their table for a large part of the evening so we don't want to eliminate this feature or your room may look a little lack luster, but we also don't want to get carried away and blow the budget. A few choice blooms and fresh greenery that you can purchase wholesale and assemble yourself is a brilliant option that can mean up to 60% in cost savings...added plus is that it could be a fun little DIY project for you and your crew.
- Another idea is to plan a few feature tables with elaborate arrangements among your more modest pieces. This will give your room a lot of dimension (think feature wall in your home) without being overpowering. With a little advance planning, you could also ensure that these arrangements are brought to your home and/or hotel room at the end of the night or given to family members as gifts.
- Never underestimate the power of fresh greens...go on, check out Pinterest and see for yourself :)