

# Avoid These Pre-Wedding Mistakes

Even the smartest, most on top-of-things couple can make mistakes during Wedding Planning. Here are the 10 things you should keep an eye on before saying “I Do”.

## 1. Blowing off your Wedding Budget:

It costs a lot of money to throw a Wedding!! Many times, excited Brides start booking vendors and making purchases without having a real budget and then are shocked to discover they've already spent all of their money (or parents' money) and don't yet have half the things they need. If you bounce checks or don't have the money to pay your deposits or make your final payments on the Wedding Day, your Wedding will not happen. Trust us - the band is not going to play all night if you don't pay. Planning a Wedding is serious business. Make a budget and keep track of your expenditures so you won't be walking naked down the aisle.

## 2. Messing up the marriage license:

There are so many rules surrounding Marriage Licenses. For instance, if you get your license 91 calendar days before your Wedding **in Maine**, you won't be able to legally marry on your Wedding Day because a **license is valid there for only 90 calendar days**. If you go to obtain your license the day before your Wedding, you may not get it in time because some states have a three-day waiting period (**Maine does not**). A common mess-up for those marrying for a second time is not bringing official widowed/divorced papers when going to get the license.

## 3. Ordering your Wedding dress too late:

If your heart is set on a couture Wedding Dress, be sure to order by the six-month mark since your dress will be custom made and, many times, made overseas. Most off-the-rack Wedding Dresses will require alterations, so make sure you have enough time to get the gown fitted. You'll also want to leave plenty of time for shipping and for your fittings. The same goes for the Bridesmaid Dresses.

## 4. Booking hotel rooms too late:

Brides often leave blocking out hotel rooms for out-of-town wedding guests until the last minute. If you're marrying during a busy time and you don't investigate hotel availability, you can end up with not a single room. Reserve rooms as early as possible. Begin your research up to a year in advance, and make sure your block is booked at the eighth month mark. Include hotel information on your “Save the Date” cards. This doesn't mean you will have to pay for the rooms; it means you are just setting them aside.

## 5. Inviting too many guests:

Make sure your guest list and your reception site capacity match up, numbers-wise. You can't invite 400 people assuming only 250 will accept because if you end up with 300 acceptances, you may have to turn 50 guests away at the door. Most Wedding venues can't just add 10 more tables and fire laws limit the maximum number of people allowed in any room at one time. Analyze your guest list from the get-go, assume 80 percent will respond yes, and limit your guest list accordingly.

## **6. Partaking in last-minute beauty treatments and diets:**

Many brides think that scheduling a facial the day before the wedding will leave their skin looking angelic on their big days. Thinking of tanning the day before your Wedding? Think again!! You may end up with blisters instead of sun-kissed skin. Last-minute beauty treatments can lead to breakouts, mistakes, or even worse, serious infections. Same goes for crash dieting in the weeks leading up to the Wedding "after all those gown fittings, your dress may not fit! Stick to a long-term beauty regimen with lots of rest, a good diet, and safe over-the-counter beauty products like sunless tanners. Save the heavy-duty beauty treatments for at least two weeks before the big day or you could risk ruining all the hard work you've done to make your Wedding perfect.

## **7. Underpaying postage:**

You'd be surprised how many brides just stick a regular stamp on their invitations and drop the whole batch into a mailbox. All but a few Wedding Invitations require additional postage. Your invites will be returned, rubber stamped with that ugly "insufficient postage" sign. Get one invitation weighed - at the post office - before purchasing your stamps. Note: Square invitations require additional postage.

## **8. Ignoring religious restrictions:**

Inappropriate attire for the church or temple, or skipping the pre-canae classes, may keep your Officiant from marrying you. Take religious restrictions seriously. To avoid day-of-disasters, meet with your Officiant within one month of getting engaged. Your house of worship may perform Ceremonies only on specific days, so settle on a date with your clergyman before you start to put down deposits. Be sure to ask about religious rules, such as: Can you write your own Wedding Vows? Do you need your shoulders covered?

## **9. Trying to go it alone:**

If you are a Bride lucky enough to have been offered help by friends or family members, by all means take it! Too many Brides try to do it all. Delegate and use all the resources that are available to you. When people offer to assist, like your mom, your future mother-in-law, or your best friend be sure to find something for them to do.

## **10. Forgetting to focus on what's important:**

Keep in mind that you are *getting married and starting a life together*, not just *planning a wedding*. Brides.....be good to your Grooms. And Grooms.....be good to your Brides! And Grides,.....be good to your Brooms!!!

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