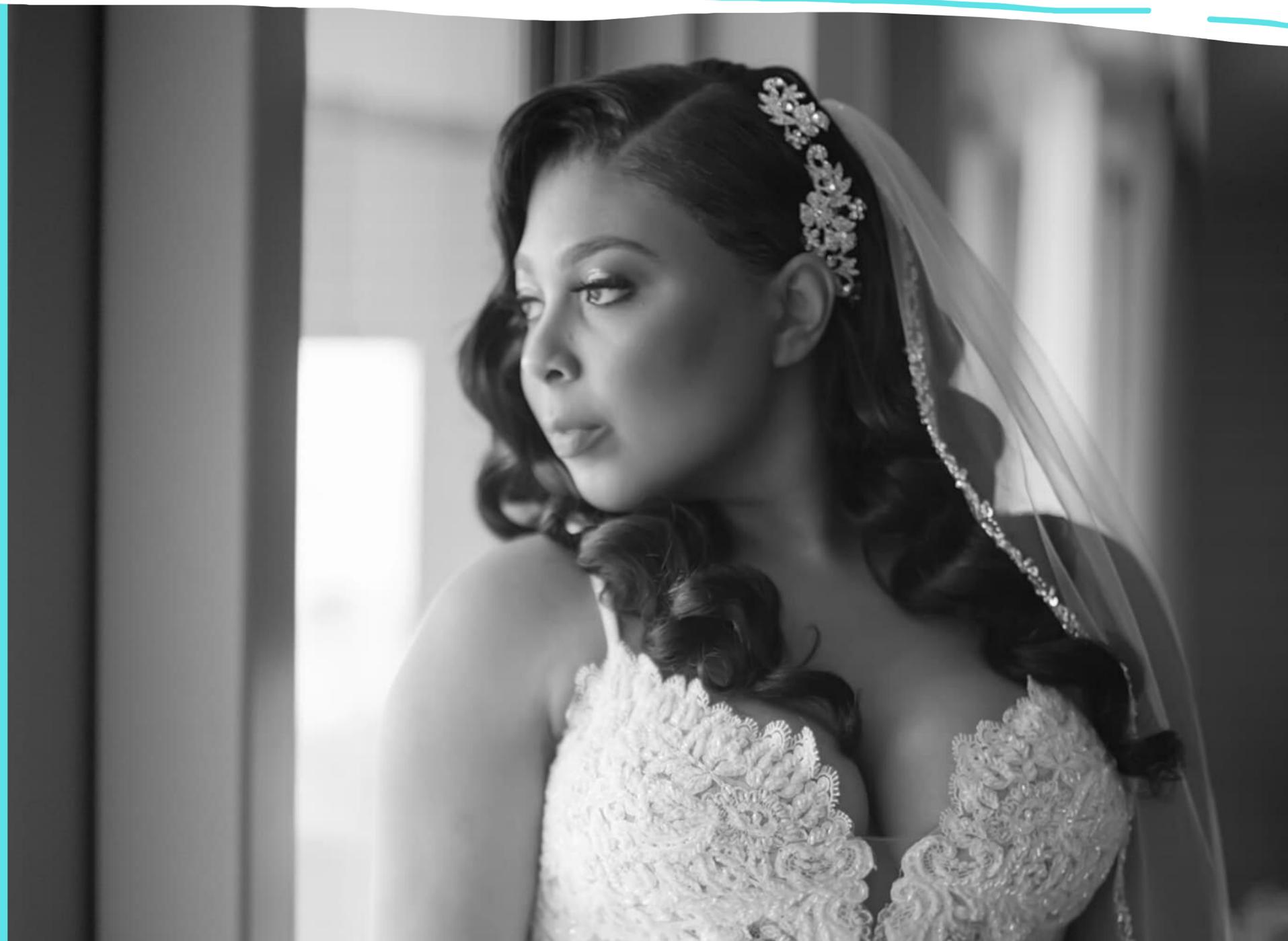


The Ultimate Wedding Budget Checklist

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You have decided on a dollar amount for your wedding let's figure out how to best spend your budget. We've put together a Wedding Budget Checklist that includes the items most weddings entail, as well as the "typical" percentage of your budget you may want to reserve for each one.

Disclaimer before we begin: The percentages below are based on industry averages and may not be right for you. Feel free to adjust them according to your needs and priorities. (Just make sure your adjustments add up to 100%!)

Attire 7%



What that MAY include:

- Engagement Party Outfit (plus shoes and accessories)
- Engagement Photos Outfit (plus shoes and accessories)
- Bridal Shower Outfit (plus shoes and accessories)
- Bachelor / Bachelorette Outfit (plus shoes and accessories)
- Rehearsal Dinner Outfit (plus shoes and accessories)
- Specialty Undergarments
- Wedding Dress
- Wedding Dress Alterations
- Veil, Wedding Shoes, and Bridal Jewelry / Accessories
- Groom's Tux + Shoes
- Reception Outfit (if you're changing out of your dress) or After Party Outfit
- Post-Wedding Brunch Outfit (plus shoes and accessories)
- Wedding Dress Cleaning and Preservation

Beauty 2%



What that MAY include:

- Pre-Wedding Haircuts or Color
- Waxing
- Facials
- Mani-Pedi
- Professional Shave
- Tips (normally around 20% for any pre-wedding beauty treatments)
- Spray Tan
- Lash Extensions
- Hair Trial Appointment
- Day-of Wedding Hairstyle
- Makeup Trial Appointment
- Day-of Wedding Makeup

Wedding Beauty Budget Tip: Schedule your makeup & hair trial on the day of your engagement shoot—you are already made up why not take some pictures!

Cake 2%

What that MAY include:

- Cake Display / Cake Cutting
- Sheet Cake for extra servings
- Specialty Design Elements
- Cake Topper
- Cake Stand
- Cake-Cutting Fee
- Delivery Fee
- Additional Desserts (if you're doing a dessert table/station)
- Preservation Kit for one-year anniversary



Wedding Cake Budget Tip: Purchase a modest but pretty two or three-tier cake for display and cutting, and have a sheet cake (kitchen cake) sitting behind the scenes to serve your guests.

Ceremony 2%

What that MAY include:

- Ceremony Site (if separate from reception venue)
- Church Donation
- Officiant Fee
- Marriage License
- Ceremony Accessories (ring pillow, flower girl basket, unity candle, etc.)



Wedding Ceremony Budget Tip: Host your wedding ceremony and reception in one place if possible. Not only will it cut down on transportation costs, but it will also reduce travel time for vendors that get paid by the hour.

Favors + Gifts → 2%



What that MAY include:

- Wedding Favors
- Wedding Party Gifts
- Gifts for your Flower Girl(s) or Ring Bearer(s)
- Spouse Gift
- Parents Gifts
- Welcome Baskets for out-of-town guests

Music → 7%

What that MAY include:

- Ceremony Musicians
- Cocktail Hour Music
- Reception DJ or Live Band
- Microphone (for wedding ceremony and reception toasts)
- Sound-system or extra speakers
- Photo Booth & Dance Floor Lighting (if your DJ provides these extra services)



Wedding DJ and Music Budget Tip: Find a wedding DJ with a great, all-inclusive package that can cover you from ceremony to cocktail hour to reception. They'll be less expensive than live musicians, and may provide everything from MC and DJ services to simple lighting design and even photo booth setup.

Drinks 8%



What that MAY include:

- Cocktail Hour Drinks
- Reception Drinks
- Champagne Toast
- Open Bar / Hosted Beer & Wine / Specialty Cocktails
- Bartender Service
- MixersCoffee / TeaNon-alcoholic Beverages
- Glassware (if not included in your catering package)
- Bar Signage
- Corkage Fees (if you opt to BYO)
- Liquor License (if not provided by venue or caterer)
- Bartender Gratuity

Wedding Drinks Budget Tip: Provide an open beer and wine bar only, or offer a signature drink during your cocktail hour. Close the bar during the first hour of your reception, guests can enjoy the open bar after dinner is served. Also, don't feel like you have to pay extra for a champagne toast. Very few guests actually drink the champagne, and they can toast to you with their favorite hosted beverage instead..

Flowers + Decor 7%

What that MAY include:

- Ceremony Arch / Chuppah
- Ceremony Arrangements
- Wedding Chalkboards / Signage
- Corsages for Mothers / Grandmothers
- Bouquets (for bride and bridesmaids, and perhaps a toss bouquet)
- Boutonnieres (for groom, groomsmen, fathers and/or grandfathers)
- Flowers and Accessories for the Flower Girl / Ring Bearer
- Reception Centerpieces (for guest tables, guest book table, food stations, etc.)
- Wedding Cake Flowers (if additional cake décor is needed)
- Specialty Décor Rentals (e.g. tenting, lanterns, candelabras, etc.)
- Delivery Fees



Wedding Flowers Budget Tip: Two words will lower your floral expenses: Seasonal and local. When you buy what's in season, you get flowers at the peak of their supply and at a cost that's normally lower. One Extra Word "Silk"... opting for silk arrangements or mixing silk flowers in to your decor can help save you money.

Food 18%



What that MAY include:

- Tasting Appointment (if not complimentary with your catering package)
- Rehearsal Dinner
- Passed Hors D'oeuvres
- Plated, Buffet, or Family-Style Meal
- Food Stations
- Service Staff
- Catering Equipment (such as plates, silverware, glassware, serving platters, etc.)
- Catering Rentals (such as tables, chairs, linens, etc.)
- Vendor Meals (it's nice to feed your photographer)
- Tax and Gratuity (sometimes called the "service charge")
- Setup and/or Cleanup Fees
- Bar/Beverage Service (may be included in your catering package)

Wedding Food Budget Tip: place large crudité and charcuterie platters on a table for a self-serve appetizer station. Your guests will still be able to nibble during cocktail hour, and you'll save a bundle on hors d'oeuvres + service staff fees.

Invites + Paper 2%

What that MAY include:

- Wedding Ceremony Programs
- Wedding Reception Paper Goods
- Escort Cards or Place Cards
- Menu Cards
- Custom Napkins
- Favor Labels
- Thank You Cards
- Engagement Party Invitations
- Save The Dates
- Wedding Invitations (including inserts like RSVP cards or maps)
- Rehearsal Dinner Invitations
- Post Wedding Brunch Invitations
- Envelopes (note that specialty size envelopes will be more expensive to ship)
- Postage (for invitations and RSVP envelopes, as well as thank you cards)
- Return Address Labels



Wedding Invitations and Paper Budget Tip: Go paperless! A stylish site like Paperless Post can generate e-invitations for everything from the Engagement Party to the Rehearsal Dinner. For more formal pieces like wedding invitations, choose a single-page postcard to save on both the cost of envelopes and standard postage.

Reception Venue 16%

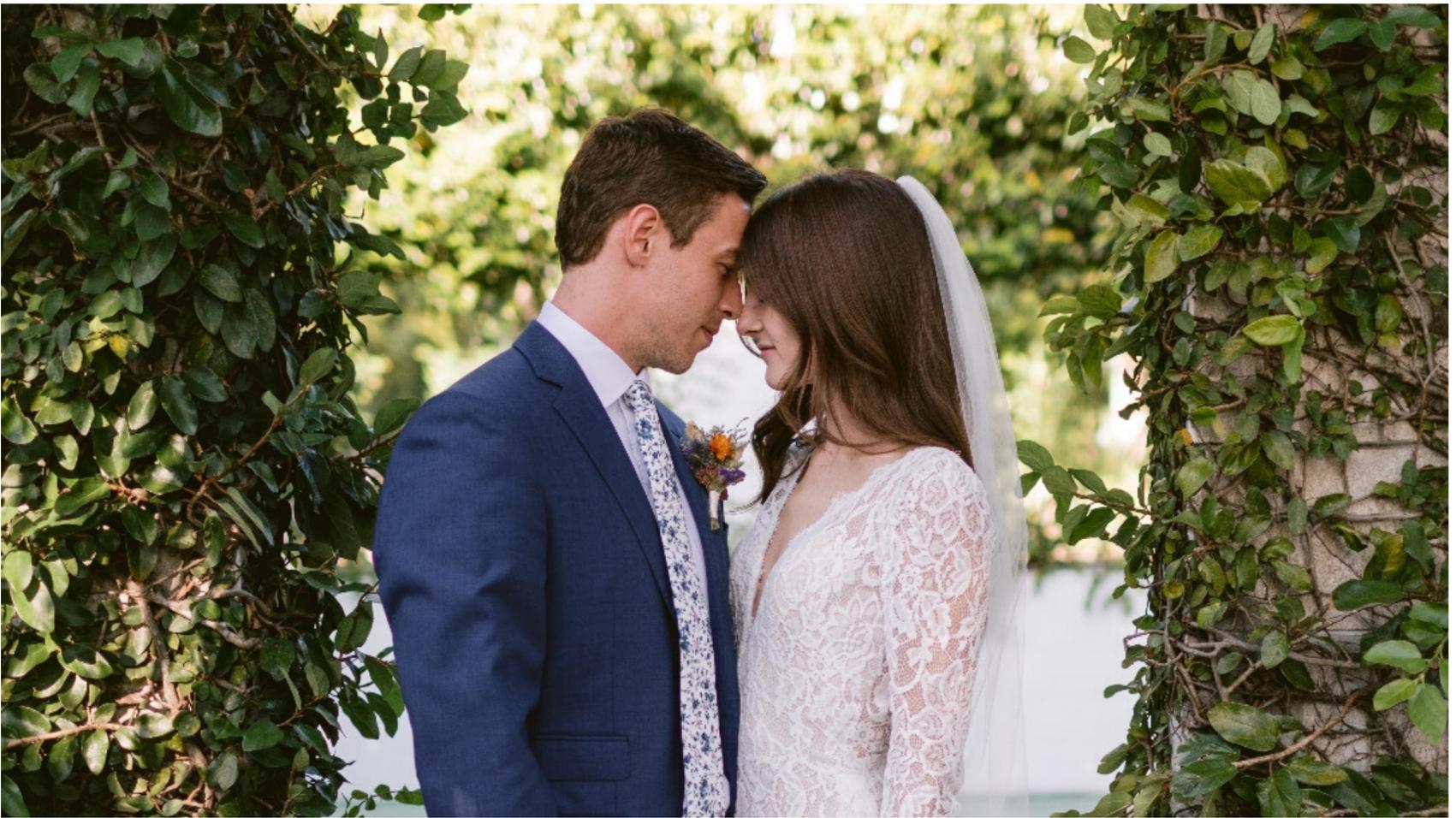
What that MAY include:

- Room Rental Fee
- Venue Deposit
- Parking Fees
- Liability Insurance
- Tax and Service Fees
- Security (some venues require it)
- Ceremony Fee (if ceremony is being held at reception venue)
- Additional Rentals (such as tables, chairs, china, etc. if not provided by caterer)
- Dance Floor Rental (if not already installed/included)



Wedding Reception Budget Tip: Go "off" the beaten path when it comes scheduling your wedding. Have it on an "off" day (e.g. Wednesday), or "off" season, or at an "off" time (e.g. morning) when venues don't usually book events. You'll benefit big time with hefty savings off their normal fees.

Photo or Video 10%



What that MAY include:

- Engagement Session
- Rehearsal Dinner
- Coverage Wedding Day
- Coverage Albums or Prints
- Same Day Edit
- Raw Footage
- Highlight Reel
- Feature Film

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Wedding Planner 7%

- What that MAY include: Day-Of, Month-Of or Full-Service Wedding Coordination
- Venue and/or Vendor Referrals and Liaison
- Budget Development
- Timeline Creation
- Rehearsal Coordination
- Wedding Day Setup and Management



Transportation 2%



What that MAY include:

- Bridal Party Transportation to the Ceremony Venue
- Bridal Party Transportation to the Reception Venue (if different from Ceremony Site)
- Gratuity for the Driver(s)
- Shuttle Service to transport guests to/from their hotels
- Valet Parking Service

Wedding Transportation Budget Tip: Who says you have to rent a limo? You can rent a sprinter transport vehicle, you can rent UBER Elite or just rent a few large SUV's. The choice is yours!

Wedding Rings 2%

What that MAY include:

- Wedding Bands
- Wedding Band Resizing Fee
- Wedding Ring Insurance
- Any Customization / Engraving



Emergency Fund 5%

What that MAY include:

- Vendor Tips
- Sales Tax
- Service Charges
- Wedding Insurance
- Liquor License (if not provided by the venue and/or caterer)
- Overtime Fees



Emergency Fund Budget Tip: It's almost guaranteed that you'll run into some hidden fees or other unexpected expenses, so make sure to give yourselves a cushion.

Honeymoon Anyone???

We didn't include "honeymoon" as a wedding expense, but we love the idea of registering for one. Companies like Honeyfund make it easy! Guests are able to "gift" experiences in lieu of toaster ovens, and you get the honeymoon you thought you couldn't afford.