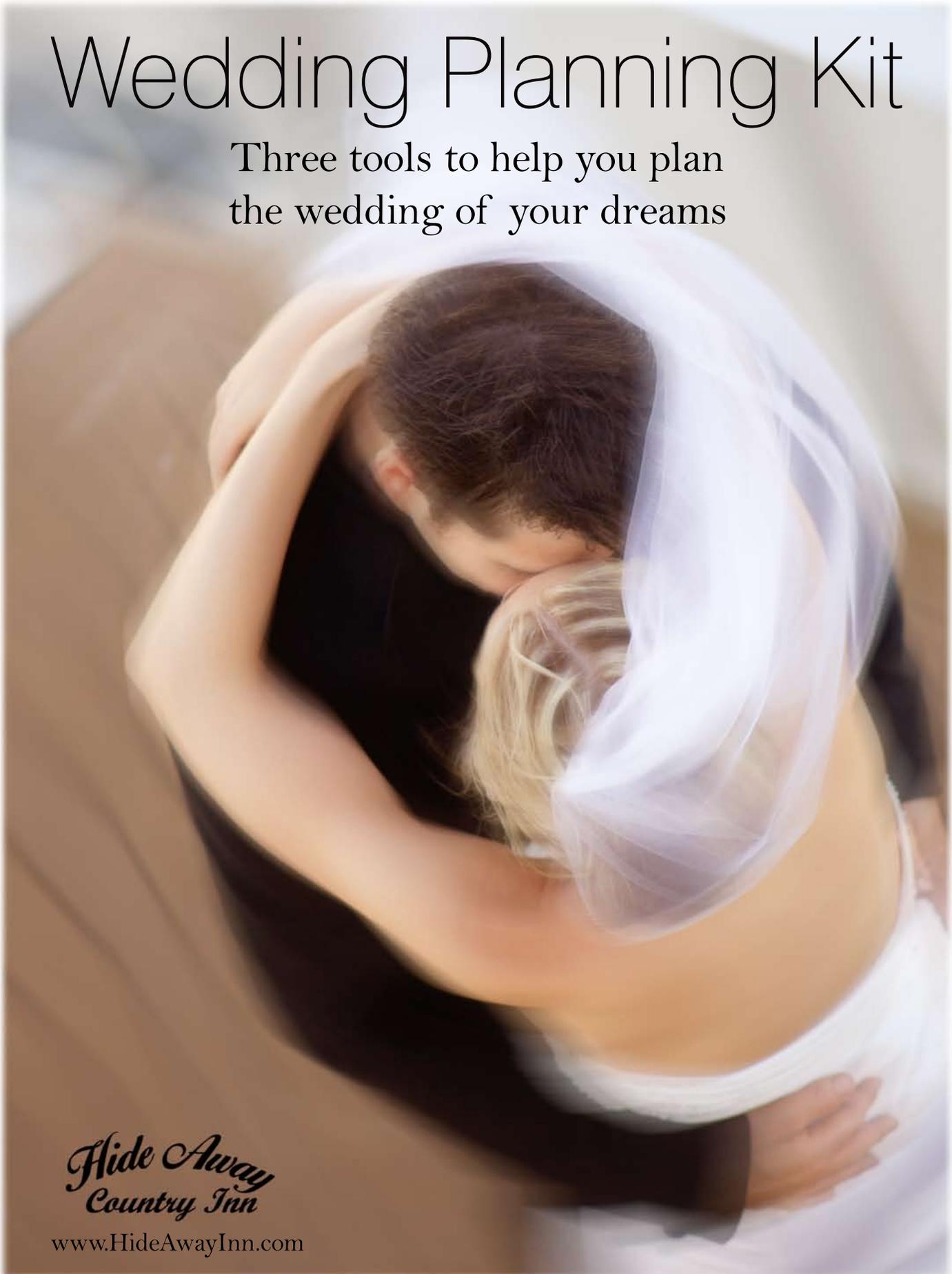


Wedding Planning Kit

Three tools to help you plan
the wedding of your dreams

*Hide Away
Country Inn*

www.HideAwayInn.com



Hello!

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding and welcome to one of the most exciting times of your life!

Over the years, I have had the privilege of hosting countless weddings at the HideAway Country Inn. My own daughter just recently married the man of *her* dreams with a beautiful wedding and reception. I have seen weddings from all sides and know just how fun – and stressful – planning a wedding can be. There is just so much that goes into it, and it can be overwhelming at times.

We've put together this Wedding Planning Kit to help you get your head around the project in front of you. Inside, you'll find a quiz to help you discover your wedding style, a list of the most recommended and *not* recommended wedding-planning practices, and *The Three D's of Wedding Planning* to help you make your dream into a reality.

Of course, I am always here to answer any questions, wonderings, or concerns you may have as you plan your wedding.

Happy reading!

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What's *Your Wedding* Style?

Which words would you like to describe your wedding?

- A. Creative, natural, spiritual, simple.
- B. Traditional, lovely, romantic, classic.
- C. Delicate, ethereal, fantasy, romantic, magical, emotional.
- D. Avante garde, cool, unique, trendy.
- E. Sophisticated, elegant, chic, luxurious, polished.
- F. Lavish, dramatic, glamorous, elaborate.

What do you want the most important function of your wedding ceremony to be?

- A. To express the deep and spiritual connection you and your partner share.
- B. To pledge your lifelong love and devotion to one another while incorporating timeless cultural and family traditions.
- C. To experience the most romantic fairy tale day of your life.
- D. To exchange vows that are as unique as your love for each other.
- E. To tastefully celebrate your mutual love and commitment.
- F. To proclaim your love for one another for all the world to see.

Your favorite romantic movie is:

- A. *Sense and Sensibility*; *Pride and Prejudice*
- B. *Love Actually*, *You've Got Mail*
- C. *Runaway Bride*, *Ever After*
- D. *Nurse Betty*, *As Good As It Gets*
- E. *Sabrina*, *What Women Want*
- F. *Pretty Woman*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*

Your wedding budget is:

- A. Sufficient. We don't need to spend a lot of money to be happy.
- B. Comfortable. Different parties are paying for different things.
- C. Unfortunately. We can't afford the castle we have in mind.
- D. Funky and creative don't have to be expensive.
- E. Not a problem.
- F. Budget?

Your style of clothing could best be described as:

- A. Unstructured with clean simple lines in luscious neutral tones.
- B. Jeans, khakis, shirts, shoes. You know, clothes.
- C. Unique, stylish, classy, and probably purchased at a small boutique.
- D. Eclectic. You love putting together your own personal look.
- E. Purchased at high-end department stores where the personal shoppers know you by name.
- F. Straight off the runways.

You spend time outdoors:

- A. As much as possible. You love nature and all types of weather.

- B. Whenever you're enjoying your favorite outdoor activities.
- C. Whenever the mood strikes.
- D. Any time you are pursuing your latest adventure.
- E. For an occasional walk, game of tennis, or to sit at a sidewalk café.
- F. Only when necessary.

Your dream wedding dress is:

- A. Something simple, with clean lines and natural fabrics
- B. A traditional, classic beauty
- C. A princess ball gown
- D. Sexy, funky, maybe even brightly colored
- E. Chic, sophisticated. Refined.
- F. Absolutely haute couture. Glamorous.

You want your bridal bouquet to be:

- A. Wildflowers
- B. An array of white flowers and some trailing ivy
- C. Ribbon-tied roses
- D. Bright, radiant
- E. Cascades of lilies – majestic and elegant
- F. Glamorous and straight out of a magazine.

For your first dance, you're considering:

- A. Something that illustrates your deep emotional and spiritual connection.
- B. "At Last"
- C. A sweet slow dance to "your song"
- D. Something different and unexpected
- E. A waltz
- F. A tango

If you answered mostly A's, you are a *Natural* Bride.

You prefer things to be as simple and as uncomplicated as possible, but not without meaning. You may only have a few flowers, but you'll have thought through their symbolism.

You are probably drawn to clean lines, natural fabrics, and understated decorations that will allow all your inner beauty to shine through.

While planning your wedding and reception, consider outdoor locations with beautiful scenery. Day and night are equally suitable for the *Natural* Bride – whether you prefer to soak up the sun or smooch under the stars. Consider table centerpieces that can be replanted for an eco-friendly option.

If you answered mostly B's, you are a *Classic* Bride.

Keep it classic and you're a happy camper. And though you love a good pair of jeans, you're not boring. You wear it with flair, allowing the simplicity of your style to reveal your clean, classic beauty.

You cherish traditions – cultural, family, and religious and look forward to incorporating as many of them as possible into your wedding.

When planning your wedding ceremony, you'll be drawn towards more traditional locations full of family and/or religious significance. You'll relish all the traditional dances and you may want to consider setting out pictures of your parents or grandparents on their wedding day at your reception for a solid connection to the past.

If you answered mostly C's, you are a *Romantic* Bride.

Yes, you. But then, you're not too surprised at this result, are you? You are the bride who gets teary-eyed imagining you and your Prince Charming driving away in a horse-drawn carriage.

As you plan your wedding day, consider your favorite fairy tale as a child. What made it glow with romance? Was it Cinderella and her Prince's dance? Was it Belle and the Beast's tenderness for each other? Was it the pomp and ceremony or the lighthearted fun? Your wedding day is your fairy tale day – incorporate all the romance you can.

You've dreamt of this day since you were tiny, playing "wedding day" with your friends. You may take a playful, whimsical approach, or plan an epic Victorian romance for your wedding day. But one thing's for certain – it will be a day fit for a princess.

If you answered mostly D's, you are a *Trendy* Bride.

You're not the sort to walk a road well travelled. You're the one leading the charge into new and exciting fashion and lifestyle trends.

Your dress will be gorgeous, but probably not a traditional white or ivory one. You might choose a playful tea length dress, or something you've designed yourself.

As you plan your wedding, you will be on the lookout for something unusual, unique or even exotic. You might choose to exchange your vows in a hot air balloon before landing at your reception, or fly off to an exotic location. You're most likely to pen your own vows or maybe even design your wedding ceremony top to bottom. Your wedding event is guaranteed to be exciting, unusual, and perfectly *you*.

If you answered mostly E's, you are a *Sophisticated* Bride.

Words that best describe you include *stylish, elegant, refined, graceful*, and above all, *sophisticated*.

Your gown will likely be sophisticated, sleek, flattering and unique. Long, graceful lines and chic stylish colors will be the hallmark of your wedding, from the décor to the bridal party's attire.

Your personal style is best suited to an elegant evening wedding event with tall candles, sparkling crystal, black ties and sumptuous food. The day will be polished, immaculately planned, and flawless from start to finish.

If you answered mostly F's, you are a *Dramatic* Bride.

You were made to be in the spotlight, and you wear the attention well. All eyes are drawn to you when you walk into a room, and you are the happy object of much admiration.

Your taste for only the best extends from your fabulous engagement ring to the haute couture wedding dress you will wear to the world-class musicians at the reception. You will pull out all the stops as you plan your wedding, and it is sure to be THE event of the decade.

As you start planning your wedding, the first things on your list should be hiring a highly recommended wedding consultant to help you juggle the complexities that will certainly be involved, and booking that perfect reception venue of your dreams.

Ten Wedding Planning Tips

1. Start planning as early as possible.
2. Be organized. Keep all your appointments, notes, and information in the same place.
3. Make a budget and stick to it.
4. Prioritize what is most important to you and let those priorities help you decide on your budget and how you will delegate the workload.
5. Know your service providers and put everything in writing ahead of time.
6. Be choosy in who you select for your wedding party.
7. Pursue proper etiquette. It is your special day, but don't forget to treat your wedding party and guests with proper consideration.
8. Compromise. It's the foundation of a happy marriage.
9. Remember that something is bound to go wrong. Don't be afraid of making contingency plans. And don't forget that even if the sky falls down, you'll still end the day *married!*
10. Relax and enjoy!

Nine Wedding Planning Don'ts

1. Don't fail to create or stick to your budget.
2. Don't put things off to the last minute.
3. Don't be inconsiderate to your family, friends, guests, and service providers.
4. Don't fail to consider your future spouse when planning the wedding.
5. Don't lose perspective and get bogged down in details.
6. Don't tune out the rest of your life in the wedding planning process. You'll still need a job and friends when you get back from the honeymoon.
7. Don't forget to delegate. If your dad loves cake, let him check out the local bakeries and narrow down your options!
8. Don't neglect to leave some elbow room in your wedding day for unexpected delays, extra time to greet your guests, or just a few moments to sit back and *enjoy*.
9. Don't lose sight of the goal: a beautiful start to a beautiful life.

The Three D's Of Wedding Planning

The day has finally arrived. The one you've been waiting for your whole life. He – your one, your only – has finally popped the question. And you've said YES! Who knew life could be so sweet? Well, Bride-to-be, it's true. You're entering into one of the happiest and most exciting times of your life. No wonder you're walking on clouds.

Your wedding day will be filling your dreams and imagination. It will be the most exciting, romantic day of your life.

The project, for now, is getting from here to there.

Hosting a wedding is an enormous undertaking. It's the celebration of the beginning of your *marriage*: full of joy, wondrous, and without a doubt, emotionally intense. Preparing your wedding requires careful thought and lots of planning. When you first take the step from dreaming about your wedding to *planning* it, make sure you do just that: *plan*. Sit down with your fiancé and come up with a strategy for the next few months. As you do so, be sure you keep in mind the importance of the Three D's of Wedding Planning: Dollar-Management, Delegation, and Deadlines.

Dollar Management

If you've never put together a budget before, this is the time to learn. Not only will it keep you from overspending on your wedding, it will teach you a valuable life lesson that you will need as you go from being single, to being part of a couple, to someday juggling the finances of a whole family (eep!).

We recommend sitting down with all financially contributing parties and talking openly about how much money is available for your wedding. How much *are* you going to spend on this wedding? Or better yet, what is the *most* you will spend on this wedding? Come up with a nice round number, be it \$5,000, or \$50,000.

The next step is prioritizing. What can you absolutely *not* live without? What can you live without, really, if you had to? We've provided a list of items you will most likely spend money on, and we encourage you to rank these items in terms of their importance *to you two*.

- Food
- Ceremony Site & Reception Hall Rental
- Attire
- Flowers
- Photography
- Videography
- Music
- Invitations
- Gifts
- Rings
- Transportation
- Other: _____

Excellent. Keep those priorities in mind as you move on to the next step: breaking down your total amount of money available into how much you will actually spend on each category. Statistics show that in the average wedding, the budget is broken down as follows:

Reception food and venue rental “eats up” 35% - 55% of the total budget.

Attire: 5% -12%

Ceremony: 6% - 10%

Flowers: 5% - 15%

Photography & Videography: 7% - 13%

Music: 7%

Invitations: 2% - 5%

Gifts: 4%

Rings: 2% - 10%

Transportation: 1%

Miscellaneous (aka “padding”): 4%

You’ll next want to compare your priorities list with the approximated percentages above and come up with some numbers. We’ve created a chart for you to fill in as you go. Use pencil!

Item	Our %s	Sample \$10,000 Budget	Your percentages	Your budget:	Actual Spent
Food	40%	\$4,000			
Reception Rental	10%	\$1,000			
Attire	12%	\$1,200			
Flowers	8%	\$800			
Photography	5%	\$500			
Videography	2%	\$200			
Music	7%	\$700			
Invitations	3%	\$300			
Gifts	4%	\$400			
Rings	2%	\$200			
Transportation	1%	\$100			
Miscellaneous	6%	\$600			
Total	100%	\$10,000			

Now, you may look at our numbers and think, “Sheesh, \$700 on music? I’d rather have an awesome photographer and use an iPod with borrowed speakers at the reception.” So do it! Scrap the music and put that \$700 towards the best photographer you can find. Or save \$100 on transportation by borrowing a friend’s shiny new car to drive off in.

The number one thing to keep in mind is that bottom line. If one item ends up being more expensive than you’d anticipated (like the dress you had dreamed of your whole life and had to have was \$2000 and not \$1200), look through your list and see if some money could be saved somewhere else. Maybe you don’t need a professional videographer, after all. Maybe having your best friend’s husband with a camcorder in the second row will be good enough.

That’s why we said to use pencil. One item may have to “give” to make room for another, and you may not know the actual costs until you get going. But never lose sight of that bottom line.

The other benefit of setting up a budget is this: as you fill out your budget, your to-do list will (miraculously!) start to take shape in front of your eyes.

Deadlines

A wedding can take a long time to plan. Do not put things off to the last minute. Reception halls and ceremony sites are often reserved very early, so make sure you nail those down right away. Vendors are also very busy, especially during peak wedding season, so be sure to secure their assistance before someone else does!

Set deadlines for yourself (and your delegates!) at the beginning and be sure to stick with them.

We recommend storing all of your information in one place, be it an official wedding planner, a binder with tabbed dividers, or a generic pocket calendar. Whatever you choose, be sure to have an easy-view calendar where you can mark down payment due dates, paperwork deadlines, and all your other self-inflicted, er, chosen, due dates. Follow up with your delegates to make sure they get their projects done on time, and make sure *you* stick to that calendar to avoid a backlog down the road.

To get you going, we've provided a short list of some of the most important things you'll want nailed down as soon as possible. Once you have your calendar, transfer these dates to it.

Item	Due Date	✓
Budget Decided		
Ceremony Site Reserved		
Reception Venue Reserved		
Invitations Ordered		
Rings Ordered		
Attire Decided & Ordered		
Caterer Decided & Reserved		
Photographer Selected & Reserved		
Florist Decided & Reserved		
Wedding Night & Honeymoon Plans Made		
Wedding Party Selected & Secured		
Wedding License Acquired		

We wish you all the best as you plan your wedding. Remember to stay organized, stay focused, stay calm, and enjoy the ride! In no time at all, you'll be standing at the altar with your beloved by your side. There's no better fairy-tale ending than that.