

# 101 Ways to Slash Your Wedding Budget Without Sacrificing Style

Your wedding should be a beautiful, joyous occasion—not a financial burden. But with the average American wedding costing over \$30,000, it's easy to see how expenses can quickly spiral out of control.



## 101 Ways To Save Money On Your Wedding

by Juliana Serafim

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 69 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 18 pages  
Lending : Enabled



Don't worry, though. There are plenty of ways to cut costs without sacrificing style. In fact, with a little creativity and planning, you can have the wedding of your dreams without breaking the bank.

Here are 101 proven strategies for slashing your wedding budget:

### Ceremony

- Get married in the off-season or on a weekday.
- Choose a non-traditional venue, such as a park, museum, or library.

- Get creative with your ceremony décor. Use flowers from your garden, DIY decorations, or rent items from friends.
- Hire a cheaper officiant. Consider asking a friend or family member to officiate your ceremony.
- Skip the ceremony rehearsal. While a rehearsal can be helpful, it's not necessary and can save you money.

## **Reception**

- Host your reception at a non-traditional venue, such as a restaurant, community center, or backyard.
- Choose a less expensive time for your reception. Consider having a brunch or afternoon reception.
- Reduce your guest list. Invite only your closest friends and family members.
- Skip the open bar and serve beer and wine only, or offer a limited selection of alcoholic beverages.
- Provide your own food and drinks. Cater your reception yourself or ask guests to contribute dishes.

## **Attire**

- Buy your wedding dress off the rack, online, or at a consignment shop.
- Buy a used wedding dress.
- Rent your wedding dress.
- Get creative with your wedding accessories. Use fake flowers, DIY jewelry, or borrow items from friends.

- Rent tuxedos for the groomsmen.

## **Invitations and Stationery**

- Design your own invitations and stationery using a free online template.
- Print your invitations on inexpensive paper.
- Use electronic invitations.
- Send invitations in bulk.
- Ask a friend or family member to help you with calligraphy.

## **Flowers**

- Use seasonal flowers.
- Buy flowers in bulk from a wholesaler.
- Grow your own flowers.
- Use fake flowers.
- Rent flower arrangements.

## **Photography and Videography**

- Hire a newer photographer or videographer.
- Choose a package that includes only the essential services.
- Ask a friend or family member to take photos or videos.
- Use a photo booth instead of hiring a photographer.
- Hire a videographer for only the ceremony or reception.

## **Entertainment**

- Create your own playlist and rent a sound system.
- Hire a local band or DJ.
- Ask a friend or family member to provide entertainment.
- Set up a karaoke machine.
- Play lawn games.

## **Transportation**

- Rent a school bus or party bus instead of a limo.
- Carpool with friends or family members.
- Use Uber or Lyft instead of hiring a car service.
- Rent a car and drive yourself to your wedding.
- Walk or bike to your wedding.

## **Other Tips**

- Set a budget and stick to it.
- Don't be afraid to negotiate with vendors.
- Take advantage of discounts and coupons.
- Ask for help from friends and family.
- Be creative and have fun with your wedding planning.

By following these tips, you can slash your wedding budget without sacrificing style. With a little planning and effort, you can have the wedding

of your dreams without breaking the bank.

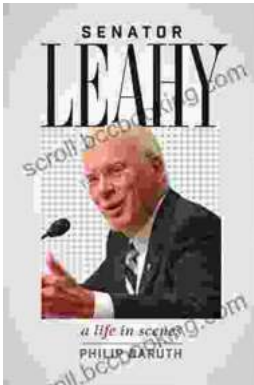


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