

February 2020
A Special Supplement to

The Malone Telegram



Wedding Celebrations

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Wedding planning tips and tricks

Metro

Recently engaged couples are often so swept up in the excitement surrounding their engagements that they can be forgiven for initially overlooking all the wedding planning that awaits them. Planning a wedding is no small task, but many couples very much enjoy all the hard work that goes into making their special day a success.

It's hard for newly engaged couples who have never before planned a wedding to know what awaits them. But the following tips can help make the wedding planning process go smoothly.

- Find your organization method. Organization is the key to pulling off the wedding of your dreams. Whether your organizational style is best served by jotting details like dates and deposit deadlines down in a notebook or utilizing an online spreadsheet or smartphone app, choose your method early on. Keeping information and reminders in one place can make it easier to manage all the tasks that lie ahead.

- Take your time. There's no rush to the altar. Feel free to extend the engagement long enough to keep stress

levels down and get the location and ceremony of your dreams. Many recently engaged couples feel pressured to get married right away. Stretching out the engagement to save money or give yourself more time to plan can make for a wonderful wedding day.

- Discuss the budget openly and honestly. Did you know a New York City wedding can cost \$77,000, according to Money magazine? Wedding costs can vary widely, and couples should sit down together to decide what they can afford and are willing to pay for.

- Decide on a guest list. Planning decisions are often based around the projected number of guests. You'll need to have a ballpark figure regarding guests before you can choose a venue and make other decisions, such as where guests will stay. And if the majority of guests are coming from a certain area, such as your hometown, you may want to bring the wedding to them instead of asking them to come to you.

- Create a priorities list. Make a list of at least three things that are most important for each of you. It may

be the ceremony location, the food or another factor. Knowing what is important can help you negotiate prices and understand what to look

for when planning.

These are some of the considerations couples should make while planning their weddings. While it's important

to consider these factors and others, it's also important that couples have fun when planning their nuptials.



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The evolution of wedding favors

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Wedding favors have changed — and in many cases for the better. Favors have evolved from the inexpensive trinkets purchased in bulk into more personalized mementos that guests can cherish.

Today's couples are interested in customizing their weddings and offering guests something meaningful, or at the very least, edible, so that favors don't immediately get relegated to the trash can. According to Heather Jones of Wente Vineyards in California, favors have moved from 'goodie bags' toward items that are experimental and fun. Wedding planners from across the country offer these wedding favor trends that couples may want to incorporate into their own celebrations.

Welcome bags

Rather than take-home bags, welcome bags have replaced the traditional favor trinket at some weddings. Many weddings have become multi-day events that ask guests traveling from out of town to attend a wedding weekend. To help greet them and make their experience memorable, couples may fill a gift bag with items guests can use or enjoy during their stay — like a bottle of locally sourced maple syrup or some handmade soaps from a nearby shopkeeper.

Experience gifts

Instead of a candle or a monogrammed cake server, think of experiences to offer guests. A coupon for free drinks at a nearby brewery, a tour of a local attraction while guests are in town or a group excursion for guests attending a destination wedding can be fun and will help guests create lasting memories.

Charitable donations

Some couples feel that favors are wasteful and would rather set aside a portion of their wedding budgets toward giving back. In such situations, a donation to charity in guests' names can be the way to go.

Guests can vote on two favorite charities advertised on a special table at the wedding reception. The one with the most votes will get the proceeds.

Late-night snacks

After a night of celebrating, some guests may want the festivities to continue, but may need some extra sustenance to make it through a few more hours. Some couples are eschewing traditional favors in lieu of making room for extra food or beverage expenses that can include after-par-

ty treats. These may run the gamut from wood-fired pizzas to food truck vendors to extra desserts. A tasty take-home option also may be given, such as fresh zeppolis or beignets, or even a personalized bottle of wine. Even if the food and drink is not consumed right away, there's a good chance it will hit the spot when guests return to their hotel rooms.

Wedding favors are changing to keep up with the times and keep guests feeling extra special.



Like many other elements of the wedding, favors are evolving to help give weddings a custom feel.

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Get schooled on wedding terminology

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Couples about to embark on their wedding journeys will likely learn a thing or two about party planning once their engagements are over and they are newly married. Wedding planning can seem overwhelming and a tad confusing at times, but a crash course in wedding terminology can help couples make more informed choices along the way.

■ **Blusher:** A short, single-layer veil that covers the bride's face before the ceremony.

■ **Boutonniere:** A single flower bud worn by the men in the bridal party.

■ **Canapes:** Bite-sized appetizers served during the cocktail hour of a reception.

■ **Civil ceremony:** A marriage ceremony conducted by a council official or justice of the peace at a municipal location rather than in a house of worship.

■ **Cocktail hour:** Typically an hour-long interlude between the wedding ceremony and the main dinner of the reception. Guests have time to arrive and mingle before being seated.

■ **Corkage fee:** A fee some establishments charge to allow guests to bring their own wine.

■ **Dais:** A podium or platform raised from the floor where the bride and groom are seated.

■ **Deposit:** A percentage of the total cost of service given to a vendor to secure a date for their services.

■ **Dragees:** Round, small edible balls of sugar that appear on wedding cakes.

■ **Escort (seating) cards:**

Printed cards that direct reception guests to their seats.

■ **Fondant:** A sweet, pliable product used to decoratively cover layered cakes. It can be used in lieu of straight buttercream.

■ **Handle wrap:** Ribbon or fabric that wraps around the stems of a bouquet the bride and wedding party carries.

■ **Maid/matron of honor:** The title given to the woman who assists the bride and stands closest to her at the altar. 'Maids' are those who are unmarried, while 'matrons' are women who are.

■ **Master of ceremonies:** An individual who will work with the DJ or band to announce the various components of the wedding reception.

■ **Nosegay:** A small bouquet or flower arrangement typically given to the mothers of the bride and groom before the ceremony.

■ **Processional/Recessional:** Musical pieces that mark the entrance and exit from the wedding ceremony.

■ **Receiving line:** A line of the key people in the wedding who welcome and greet guests.

■ **Stationery:** All of the paper products used at the wedding, including invitations, programs and enclosures.

■ **Tablescape:** A word that describes the multiple components of centerpiece designs.

Learning some basic wedding terminology can simplify wedding planning.

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A push toward private vows

Metro

Weddings are very special occasions for two people who are in love. That's why many couples want close family and friends nearby when they tie the knot. But even the happiest couples may express some nervousness about one particular part of traditional wedding ceremonies.

Wedding vows are a way for couples to profess their love for each other. However, many couples who want to write their own vows are hesitant to say them aloud in front of an audience. If couples are intimidated by a heartfelt recital of their vows in front of a crowd, then exchanging vows in private may be for them.

Wedding planners and industry experts say that private

vows have become very popular. While the vows do not replace the public exchange that seals the marriage from a legal standpoint, they can be words shared in a private moment before the actual ceremony itself. A quiet moment alone allows couples to shed private tears and share a special moment before they make haste for the altar.

The Knot, a premier wedding planning resource, notes that there are many reasons to share private vows.

- You do not like being in the spotlight or become shy in front of crowds.

- There are words you would like to share with your future spouse that are deeply private, and you don't want to express those feelings to every person

at the wedding.

- You do not want to censor your thoughts or words.

- You desire an intimately private and personal moment together before all of the fanfare and rush of the wedding.

- You'd like to recite loving words in a native language that some guests may not understand.

- You desire the potential for some very great candid photos if you invite the photographer to be there at a distance.

- You want to create a lasting memory that is only yours as a couple to share.

The popularity of private vows exchanged before a wedding ceremony is growing. This growing trend provides yet another way for couples to personalize their weddings.



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Wedding flowers becoming larger than life



Couples are moving away from traditional centerpieces to floral chandeliers and curtains made of blooms for their weddings.

Metro

Move over bouquets and centerpieces. Flowers are taking over weddings in a big way. While wedding trends come and go, flowers will always have a place at the wedding table.

The blooms brides and grooms choose and how they decide to display them can say much about the couple's style. Many modern couples are opting for statement pieces with their flowers to rival the big and bold ideas they're incorporating elsewhere in to their occasions, such as in cakes and clothing. In fact, floral designer Tom Uberuaga says traditional hurricane vase centerpieces are outdated

and only focus the eye on the middle of the table. He prefers guests enter the wedding and have their senses stimulated by flowers from all angles. Large flower installations, as well as blooms popping up in unexpected places, are some of the hot trends for couples to keep their eyes on.

Floral chandeliers

There's no need to worry about seeing over table centerpieces or flowers getting in the way of photo moments. Thanks to hanging flowers and floral chandeliers, flowers are quite literally moving up in the world. Hanging floral pieces can add instant drama and make a large visual impact. Florists can hang flowers

from beams over tabletops to increase visual impact, whether as individual baskets, single stems or floral swags. Hanging floral chandeliers are dramatic but naturally expensive. Think about a large installation that forces guests to look up into a sea of greenery and flowers. The smell and the sight can be breathtaking.

Welcome wreaths

Why should wreaths only be reserved for front doors and holiday decor? A welcome floral wreath can be placed by the entryway to a chapel or reception hall with a heartfelt sentiment that shows guests how much they're appreciated.

Fairy-tale flowers

A floral curtain of hanging flowers can line a chuppah or drape the altar in beautiful blooms. Couples who would like a fairy-tale entrance also can make their debut as a couple by coming through a flower curtain at the reception. Martha Stewart Weddings says a cascade of flowers and greens can be romantic and elegant.

Dance floor blooms

Who says flowers have to be overhead or on a table? With a plexiglass dance floor, or one made from some other transparent material, flowers can be underfoot, creating a magical floral carpet.

Floral necklaces

Brides needn't carry their

bouquets, they can wear ethereal and whimsical floral pieces around their necks or on their waists instead.

Couples are urged to speak with their florists about the innovative ways they can make flowers an even more awe-inspiring component of their weddings.



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Did you know?

One of the more popular tourist attractions in the United States is also a popular place to tie the knot. The bright lights of the Las Vegas strip and the surrounding area have drawn visitors for decades. Las Vegas also is home to more than 100,000 weddings per year, according to Clark County Clerk marriage license records. Weddings may be performed at local churches or other houses of worship, inside lavish casinos, or at the bevy of small chapels in and around Las Vegas. Las Vegas is sometimes referred to as 'The Marriage Capital of the World' thanks in part to the ease of acquiring a marriage license in the city and the minimal costs involved to tie the knot. But Las Vegas is more than just a popular place to tie the knot. According to data gathered by Facebook in 2014, when the social media service compiled data from users 'check ins,' Las Vegas also has grown into a popular honeymoon destination. In addition, Las Vegas also has evolved into a popular spot to celebrate one last hurrah before the big wedding day. Individuals frequently plan bachelor or bachelorette party weekends that incorporate all of the fun Las Vegas has to offer.

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Cater wedding menus to guests' dietary needs



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Gone are the days when wedding reception menus were limited to the one-size-fits-all offerings of meat, chicken or fish. Thanks to modern diets, couples hoping to accommodate guests may need to provide a wide array of food choices.

It is impossible to pinpoint an exact number, as there are no definitive surveys classifying all dietary preferences, but there are believed to be

around 7.9 million people in the United States who follow a vegetarian-based diet. Of those people, around one million are strictly vegan, according to data in The Economist. In addition, NYU Langone Health says one-third of Americans are trying to avoid gluten. The Gluten Free Agency, which is a consulting group dedicated to helping advertisers, says some nine million people in Canada are going gluten-free now for medical or personal reasons.

Toss in the scores of people with peanut or other allergies and even more caution is needed when designing wedding menus.

Savvy couples who have guests' health and comfort in mind recognize the importance of offering a varied meal plan for wedding-related parties and receptions. The following are some ideas to consider when planning wedding menus.

■ Consider a buffet-style service. Although couples might like the tradition and flair that a seated/plated meal offers, it creates a much more limited selection of meal options. Buffet-style dinner service often provides couples with multiple choices, and it's much more likely they can come up with a combination that caters to any food allergies or dietary restrictions guests may have.

■ Opt for food stations. In lieu of one long buffet table, a modern approach is to have staffed food stations. Foods as well as their ingredients can

be clearly stated on food table placards so guests can make appropriate choices.

■ Offer alternatives for dessert. Wedding cake can be a challenge to someone with a gluten sensitivity or an egg or a nut allergy. While not every guest indulges in dessert, make it a point to offer an alterna-

tive to cake. Perhaps a groom's cake can be revamped into gluten-free cookie bars or a nut-free trifle.

Couples who know in advance which types of dietary restrictions their guests have can work with caterers to devise a menu that suits everyone.

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A guide to hosting a daytime wedding

Metro

Weddings dot the social calendars of millions of people across the globe. The Association for Wedding Professionals International says every year an average of 2.4 million weddings are performed in the United States and approximately 150,000 per year are performed in Canada. Evenings are the most common time of the day to host a wedding, but that does not mean a daytime wedding cannot be a beautiful event and make for a party to remember.

Couples are increasingly customizing their weddings to be a reflection of their personal styles. One of the ways couples are customizing their festivities is by moving the wedding to various hours of the day that meet the couple's needs. A wed-

ding that takes place in the late morning or afternoon may be the perfect fit for some couples. Here's how to navigate the specifics of a daytime wedding.

■ Secure accommodations. An early wedding means guests may have to travel from afar the evening before to be able to attend the festivities. Daytime weddings can be complemented by working with a hotel or bed and breakfast to ensure guests will have a place to stay and get ready to arrive at the early wedding in time.

■ Don't be afraid to negotiate prices. The wedding resource Bridal Guide says that vendors are typically more amenable to price discounts or offering greater value for daytime wed-

See DAYTIME 8

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Band or DJ? How about both?

Metro

Few elements can make or break a couple's wedding day more than entertainment. While factors like the weather are beyond couples' control, ensuring guests have an opportunity to dance or sing along to some good music is something couples can emphasize as they plan their weddings.

When it comes to music, the two main options for weddings are a live band or a disc jockey. Each has its share of advantages and disadvantages. A live band may be more expensive, but it can get the crowd excited. A good band leader also acts as a master of ceremonies and can pay attention to the vibe of the room, tailoring a playlist around that overall mood. Plus, bands offer live performances, which adds an extra special element to the occasion that can't be replicated at home.

A DJ is a popular choice, and today's DJs are often artists in their own right. They know just how to select and seamlessly mix music to create the mood and really keep the party



going. Couples who prefer to hear original versions of particular songs — especially for their first dance song — often

prefer DJs. The popular wedding planning resource The Knot also says that it is often no problem for a DJ to find and

play a song from an extensive digital library, while bands may not be able to learn and perform a song in time.

Couples who can be flexible with their entertainment budgets may be able to enjoy the best of both worlds. There is nothing that says a wedding cannot feature both a live band and a DJ. Such a wedding may just take a little more planning. Consider the scenario of bringing in a band for the cocktail hour and perhaps an hour or more during the dinner service of the reception when live music can accompany the meal. After that, a DJ can take over and drive the festivities up another notch with a late-night dance party.

Some music vendors also do a combination of live and prerecorded music. They may have live singers who accompany recorded tracks, or digital instruments like keyboards and drum pads that can enhance recorded songs. These also are options when selecting wedding music.

There is no right or wrong answer when it comes to setting the soundtrack for a wedding. A band, DJ or combination thereof can make the occasion even more memorable.

Daytime

From 7

dings. That's because demand for their services is reduced during the day. Similarly, venues may have more availability during the day than at night, and, as a result, they're more flexible on prices, especially since brunch foods generally cost less than dinner entrees.

■ Hire the right photographer. Be sure to contract with a photographer who is a pro at handling photos in daylight and natural light. While many photographers are skilled in any light, many are used to shooting in churches and venues with low lighting. Be sure to see picture samples taken during the daytime to gauge a photographer's daytime experience and skill level.

■ Employ color to add di-

mension. During evening weddings, lighting or candles help set the mood. Those same elements will be ineffective in daylight. Choose bright colors for your decor and flowers to brighten up spaces.

■ Choose alternative entertainment. Chances are guests are not going to feel as comfortable dancing during daylight hours. Consider other entertainment, such as lawn games, karaoke, or a comedian. A guitarist or pianist may be a nice musical touch.

■ Plan food accordingly. Just because the wedding is early does not mean the food should be. Guests still will need to eat. If you are only opting for light appetizers and cocktails, be sure to mention this on the invitation so guests can plan ahead and won't go hungry.

Daytime weddings can be successful with a little tweaking of traditional evening wedding planning.

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Secrets to at-home weddings

Metro

Many couples preparing for their trip down the aisle follow the familiar sentiments expressed by Dorothy in 'The Wizard of Oz.' Such couples feel 'there's no place like home' when hosting a wedding ceremony or reception.

There are many benefits to hosting a wedding at home. Homes often hold couples' most cherished memories, and hosting a backyard celebration or an intimate indoor ceremony at your own home or the abode of a loved one can be a cost-effective way to have a good time.

Here are some tips to help couples navigate hosting an at-home wedding.

Assess the space

The average home is not equipped to handle hundreds of guests, wait staff, caterers, and parked cars. Concessions in regard to comfort and safety will have to be made when drawing up the guest list. The wedding resource The Knot



advises the general rule is six- to 10 square-feet of floor space per guest for row seating. You'll probably need even more space for buffet tables, seating and a dance floor.

You will likely need to tem-

porarily move furniture to comfortably fit everyone indoors — or rent a large enough tent for a backyard wedding.

Hire a cleaning service

It's important to present a clean, inviting space when

hosting a wedding at home. A cleaning service will conduct a thorough cleaning before and after the festivities, freeing up your time for last-minute tasks or to embark on your honeymoon.

Book an officiant early

Confirm with an officiant that they can oversee the wedding proceedings at your home. Many religious officials are not able to perform ceremonies outside of a place of worship.

Learn if it's legal

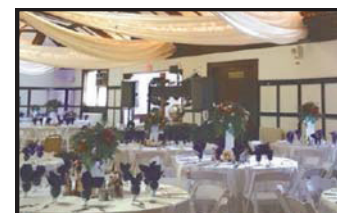
Certain municipalities may require permits for parking on street, noise past a certain hour, closing of streets, and much more. Do your research. You may need to coordinate parking at a nearby lot (like a school closed on the weekend) and shuttle people to your home.

Consult with an insurance carrier

Inquire if having such a large party at home is covered by your homeowner's insur-

ance policy, particularly if your home is damaged or someone gets injured during the festivities. Supplemental liability insurance or an umbrella policy may offer greater protection.

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Take a few extra steps to make your guest feel extra special

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Weddings may focus on the couples getting hitched, but weddings also are special thanks to the many family and friends couples involve in the festivities. Some of the more successful weddings are ones in which couples honor their guests and let them know how much they're appreciated. By incorporating these ideas into their wedding ceremonies and receptions, couples can let their guests know how much they're loved.

■ Arrange seats at the ceremony (if practical) in a circular pattern around you so that everyone can have a great view when you exchange vows.

■ Create a bathroom convenience basket for both the men's and women's bath-

rooms. Stock items that might come in handy, like mouthwash, toothpaste, first aid items, spare pantyhose, hair spray, sanitary products, moisturizer, gum, and whatever other niceties you can think of.

■ Provide prearranged to-go boxes so that guests can take home tasty tidbits from the meal or dessert table.

■ Offer transportation between the ceremony and reception.

■ Customize 'do not disturb' door tags for overnight guests so they can ensure they get enough shut-eye after partying into the wee hours of the morning.

■ Make sure the photographer takes photos of everyone at every table and then share

those photos on a wedding website or via social media. Create a hashtag unique to your wedding so that guests can easily find the photos.

■ Provide inexpensive slippers or flip-flops so that avid dancers can rest their toes in between songs.

■ If valet parking service is not included, ask for an add-on so that guests get door-to-door treatment.

■ Always be considerate of special needs by seating guests in places where they're most likely to be comfortable. Keep elderly guests away from speakers and near exits to facilitate trips to the bathroom.

■ Be mindful of all food allergies or requirements and have accommodations set up

See GUESTS 10

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Get the most out of bridal shows and events

Metro

Recently engaged couples may be excited to get a jump on wedding planning. Bridal shows can be a great way for couples to meet and familiarize themselves with local wedding professionals, all the while introducing themselves to the terminology of wedding planning.

Though they're a great source of information, contacts and samples, bridal shows also can be a bit overwhelming. Learning how to maximize time spent at shows can help couples plan their weddings as effi-

ciently as possible.

■ **Start small.** If the idea of large crowds is unappealing, attend the more intimate, boutique shows that are often held at local reception halls and restaurants instead of the larger installations at convention centers and hotels.

■ **Scout out vendors.** Check the bridal show's website for lists of exhibitors and see if your desired vendors are on the list. But even if they're not, keep an open mind and use the show as a chance to compare offerings. If an event map is available, marking

off must-visit booths can help save time.

■ **Pre-register.** Pre-registering for bridal events saves time at check-in, and doing so may make you eligible for discounted tickets.

■ **Come prepared.** Chances are each vendor is going to ask couples for information so that they can follow up with a phone call or email with more detailed offerings and estimates. Couples attending the show can expediate the process by coming equipped with labels that feature their names, contact informa-

tion and wedding date. They can then stick the labels on sign-in sheets or use them like business cards.

■ **Dress comfortably.** Bridal expos involve a lot of walking and roaming around. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Consider a backpack or hands-free bag so you are not weighed down when collecting the swag and other handouts throughout the day.

■ **Ask questions.** When face-to-face with vendors, rely on their expertise but don't hesitate to ask questions concerning themes,

colors, recommendations for honeymoon locations, invitation paper suggestions, and much more.

■ **Stay for the fashion show.** Many shows will offer a runway experience to present the latest gown and tuxedo offerings. This can be an entertaining way for couples to formulate their wedding styles.

Wedding shows introduce couples to vendors and set them on the path to making decisions regarding the planning of their weddings.



Bridal shows can provide inspiration to couples planning their weddings.

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Guests

From 9

in advance.

■ **Honor those people who could not be at the wedding in a special way, including deceased family and friends.**

■ **Include information about how guests can request songs at the reception.** Pass on the information to the band or

DJ.

■ **Encourage guests to get up and dance by making it fun.** Put song lyrics from different songs on each table. When that song is played, that table has to join you on the dance floor.

■ **Remember to thank everyone for coming and follow up those in-person sentiments with handwritten, personalized thank-you notes after the wedding.**



Things to consider when choosing a wedding party

Metro

Making the important decision to get married can fill couples with joy and excitement as they imagine spending the rest of their lives together. Naturally, brides- and grooms-to-be are anxious to share the good news with others and include family and friends in the festivities. One way couples exemplify inclusion is by asking their closest acquaintances to be part of their wedding parties.

Being asked to serve as a bridesmaid or groomsman is an honor. Some couples may be tempted to ask every friend, sibling or cousin they have to be in their wedding parties, and some do. In fact, ancient Roman law required 10 witnesses to be part of the wedding ceremony. However, the larger the wedding party, the more people couples have to coordinate and the more personalities they must manage.

While large wedding parties are in style, there isn't any one-size-fits-all formula to decide which size party is right for a particular situation. Trends vary based on geography and culture. These tips can help couples decide on the size of their wedding parties.

■ Match it to scope and style. Wedding planners may use a standard ratio for a proportion of guests to wedding party members. That ratio is one pair of wedding attendants for

every 50 guests. This creates a balanced feel where the more people in attendance, the larger the wedding party and vice versa.

■ Consider your expenses. Wedding party members may be asked to spend considerable amounts of money to be in the wedding, but the couple will have certain expenses tied to the wedding party as well. These can include limousines to ferry people between the ceremony and reception, photography costs to arrange and photograph large wedding parties, the cost of boutonnieres and bouquets, attendants' gifts, as well as extra mouths to feed at the rehearsal dinner. Small wedding parties can be easier on couples' budgets.

■ Know your expectations. Couples should discuss what they expect from their wedding parties. Do couples want their loved ones to be very hands-on or waiting in the wings? For those who want a lot of input from their wedding parties, asking distant friends or family to be included may be impractical.

■ Select reliable, easygoing people. Wedding party members should be people couples can rely on, and it only helps if wedding party members are not prone to overreacting. Choose a wedding party that can be trusted and people with whom you get along.

Wedding party sizes are up to the couple, but bigger isn't always better.

Getting here to there on your wedding day

Metro

You've planned the date, met with the officiant, decided on what to wear, and booked the venue. But how are you going to arrive in style?

Arranging wedding transportation can be tricky, even if it seems like it's a relatively minor detail. However, getting not only the bride and groom, as well as the rest of the bridal party and guests, from point A to point B and even point C is often a taller task than it seems.

The wedding planning resource The Knot says couples should begin focusing on transportation between four and six months before their weddings. If the wedding will be held during prom or graduation season, couples may want to reserve vehicles even earlier due to high demand.

While rented transportation is not necessary, it's a luxury many couples prefer, as it allows them to leave the driving to someone else. Generally speaking, hired cars will pick up the bride and groom separately before the ceremony; otherwise, they will arrive to the ceremony by other means and then utilize a limo or other vehicle afterward. The transportation will then take the married couple and typically members of the bridal party and immediate

family to the reception venue.

Depending on the head count and how many other people will be getting a lift, two or more vehicles may be necessary. And since the limos will leave after the reception drop off, some other form of transportation will be necessary to take the couple and whomever else rode to the reception back home (or to the airport). This may require dropping off one or more personal cars at the reception venue in advance.

Budget also will dictate if transportation is provided for other guests. The majority or guests will drive their own cars to the wedding. However, if the ceremony and reception site are far apart or if the journey is arduous and out of the way, some well-meaning couples will arrange for transport. Many times couples will have to opt for function over form when tasked with transporting a large number of people. Pricing out different options can yield the most cost-effective route, which very well may be a school or charter bus instead of several limousines.

Couples can start the process by asking their reception venue for transportation recommendations. Or if there are hotel accommodations after the party, the hotel may have connections or offer shuttle services.

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