



Bridelawyer.com

Top 10 Tips

That Every Bride Needs To Know Before She Starts Wedding Planning!

- 1 **Attend Wedding Shows:** Make attending a wedding show a priority. You'll meet vendors face-to-face and get a real sense of what various services cost. Talking to pros helps you set realistic expectations and might even lead to special discounts!
- 2 **Purchase Wedding Insurance:** Consider getting wedding insurance. This is often overlooked, but it's essential. There are national companies that offer policies tailored to your needs, and they're generally quite affordable. Wedding insurance can cover two main areas: liability—like if someone gets hurt at your wedding—and cancellation.
- 3 **Insure the Engagement Ring:** Many brides don't realize how crucial it is to insure their engagement rings. Homeowners' insurance often doesn't provide adequate coverage unless you have a specific rider. Accidents happen—rings can get lost or stolen, so insuring it is worth the small cost for peace of mind.
- 4 **Aim for the Lowest Guaranteed Minimums:** Always aim for the lowest guaranteed minimums. For example, if your venue requires a minimum of 200 guests, only guarantee that number. It's common for about 10% of invited guests not to show up, so you don't want to overpay for services you won't use.
- 5 **Don't Be Shy—Ask for Extras:** Don't hesitate to negotiate with vendors! Many brides accept contracts as is, but vendors are often open to giving extras, especially if you ask for small additions that don't significantly impact their costs. They want your business!
- 6 **Get Everything in Writing:** Always get agreements in writing. Promises made verbally are not enforceable and can be forgotten or changed if someone leaves the company. Make sure every detail is documented in writing, from special requests to specific services.
- 7 **Venue and Band Compatibility:** Before signing contracts, confirm that your venue meets your band's requirements for space and sound levels. You don't want to find out that the venue can't support your chosen entertainment.
- 8 **Understand Your Vendor Offerings:** Fully understand what your vendors offer. Don't rush into contracts for smaller details before finalizing the major ones. Sometimes, your venue might include services or items you're considering purchasing separately!
- 9 **Destination Weddings:** If you're thinking about a destination wedding, consider getting married in the U.S. first. This ensures you have a legally recognized marriage, which can prevent complications later.
- 10 **Set Up a Wedding Emergency Fund:** Lastly, always set aside an emergency fund of about 10-20% of your total budget. Weddings often come with unexpected costs, whether it's last-minute details or additional items you hadn't thought of. Having that cushion allows you to enjoy your planning without stress.

We hope these tips help you feel more prepared as you embark on your wedding planning journey. Remember, being informed is key to making the best decisions! If you have any questions or need legal guidance, feel free to reach out. Enjoy the exciting journey ahead!