

5 WAYS I SAVED MONEY ON MY WEDDING

Don't have a fortune to spend on a wedding? No problem. Here's the thing: YOU get to decide what you really need to get married.

You can look at a typical wedding budget template - and be overwhelmed by all the line items. OR, you can start from scratch. Build your own wedding budget from the ground up, with only the categories you truly want.

Here are 5 things I personally did to save money on my own wedding.

E-vites

I live and die by my Google calendar; I hate paper and physical clutter. Plus, I work in digital media. So instead of printing invitations, I sent online invites to our wedding guests. There are lots of gorgeous designs and options out there on sites like Evite - or you can make your own site & app via Appy Couple.

Spotify playlist

Putting this together was seriously the best part about wedding planning. Music has been a big part of our relationship and our wedding playlist had to be representative and meaningful. The list spanned everything from Elton John to Mudvayne - even the most versatile of live bands couldn't have done it justice.

BYO booze

I don't drink, and neither do most of my family. Also, alcohol ain't cheap. We opted to provide non-alcoholic drinks only. Other options are to offer beer and wine only (no spirits) or even a cash bar.

DIY hair and makeup

I'm the kind of person who swipes on a coat of lippy in the morning and calls it a day. But wedding makeup is a different story - you need a lot of it to stand out in photos. Luckily, I have friends well versed in stage makeup who stepped in and took over.

Who needs favours?

Some people are happy to spend hours painstakingly putting together elaborate placements for every guest. I was not one of those. And you don't have to be, either.