

First things first though....



1) You have to be realistic with your budget

Many couples have an amount in mind that they want to spend but have no idea what things cost. This will cause serious financial distress all through the run up to the wedding and even afterwards as everything becomes a surprise and unexpected. Think about the wedding you want. Make sure you and your partner share how each of you would like it all to be. Include of course the 'Big Day' but don't forget the night before and the morning after, the honeymoon and travel costs for overseas family and friends.

Now start to crunch some numbers. Are family members going to contribute financially? Who's putting in what? Create and set a clear budget. Prioritise what is most important to you both and make sure these are the things you don't compromise on. Identify what's a must but not necessarily that important to you – remember these are the things on which you can compromise.

Make things match – estimate and re-evaluate what you want and make it fit your budget.

2) Hold yourself accountable

Have an excel spreadsheet. List everything you need to spend money on and keep track as you go along. Click [here](#) for a free downloadable wedding planner budget sheet.

Keeping track will really help you stick as close to your budget as possible. It is so easy to overspend. When you can see your numbers in front of you, you can quickly and easily make the right decisions. Remember you have a life to lead after the wedding. Make smart choices.