

Before You Say

We tracked down four wedding professionals and asked them to give us their top five tips for a hassle-free wedding. -LF

Before the Wedding

1. "A bride and groom should have a realistic budget. It's hard to plan something unless it's really accurate. I always ask if their budget includes taxes and attire, because sometimes people forget those are included. So they should know what's included in order to stay true to what they want to spend."
2. "Brides and grooms should come in with a head count, especially if they have a certain budget. I always ask, 'What's your magic number of people?' That way, there's a reasonable headcount for that budget."
3. "A lot of times people have a general idea for a date they want. It's good to pinpoint a date so the planning can start. Then we can check availability. It's hard to get quotes without some date in mind."
4. "Couples should agree with their significant other on what kind of ceremony they want (i.e. church or not)."
5. "I get a lot of people willing to risk an outdoor ceremony without a backup—in New Mexico! So I like to go over options with them that also coincide with their budget, like, 'Do you want the ceremony outdoor and the reception inside?' Ideas before they walk in are really important for planning."

— **Patty Miller Navarro**

Parties by Patty, LLC

Navarro has been planning weddings professionally for five years.

899-3602, www.partiesbypatty.com

1. "I would say to know that you can try to negotiate pricing with vendors. People do not do that enough."
2. "Before you plan, hire a coordinator. A lot of times, your coordinator can save you money."
3. "I always ask brides to give me their druthers list because I might be able to do something for them because of a connection. It's okay to want what you want. Let your thoughts be big."
4. "Keeping your guest list small means less of everything. You're going to save money."
5. "Before they get here, I never wish for anything. Every bride and every wedding is completely different."

— **Camilla Dominguez**

Corazon Events

Dominguez has been planning weddings for five years and events for 15 years.

890-4381, corazonevents.com



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