



Budgeting for your Wedding: Where to Splurge and Where to Save Big

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Planning a wedding on a budget can be tricky. On the one hand, you want this to be the most magical, amazing day of your life. On the other hand, you want to be practical and not overspend, while putting your best foot forward financially (if you're paying for your own wedding) or keeping your parents happy (if they're paying for the wedding). The average cost of a wedding in Indianapolis is around \$15,000, but this can vary as high as \$25,000 for an average wedding size of 100-300 guests, according to the website *Cost of Wedding*. So, how can a bride keep the costs down while still having her dream wedding? Here are some suggestions:

The venue can break the bank: While location is a very crucial part of your wedding, renting the event space and other materials for your [wedding and reception](#) can also be the most costly, taking up as much as half of the budget. Consider a moderate or alternative location if you need to keep your costs down, and splurge on another area that's more important to you. There are many alternative Indianapolis wedding locations available for use or rental, so use some creativity and the help of friends or family to find the perfect spot.



Catering and Bar Service: The food and drink you serve at your wedding lingers a long time on your guest's tongues, and adds to the overall experience and memory of your wedding. If there's an area to splurge on your wedding, this is it. However, you may want to talk with your catering service to see if there are ways to make your food seem sophisticated while forgoing the added cost (such as serving chicken instead of filet or duck). Your guests will care more about flavor and presentation. Some couples with small weddings opt to have friends or family cater the event. If they can handle it, by all means go for it! As far as open versus cash bar, it's a great debate. Many guests have come to enjoy and expect an open bar, but with costs ranging anywhere

from \$1500 to \$4,000, you may opt to serve a complimentary bubbly toast and a few signature drinks at no charge to your guests instead.



Say Yes to the Dress: It can be hard for many brides to find the perfect [wedding dress](#), with all of the embellishments and details and the perfect, flattering fit. Stick to the lower range of wedding dress if you want to save a little. You can still find a designer-inspired dress without spending a fortune – and still look great. If you're so inclined, wear a family member's cherished dress or find a cool vintage gown.

Flowers and Decorations: Many brides are opting for DIY alternatives to some floral and decorations for their weddings. An area to try this might be your reception tables, the cost of which can add up if you have a large wedding. Save your budget for your bridal bouquet and flowers for your wedding party and cake table, or consider reusing flowers and transporting some from the ceremony to the reception to pull double-duty.



Other times to save (or splurge) on your wedding day:

- **Consultants:** Consider hiring a wedding consultant if you hate to plan, don't know the area well, or desperately want everything to run smoothly. Skip it if you have good help from friends and family or are highly organized. Plus, you can get some great information online!
- **Jewelry:** Consider a less expensive wedding band for you and your fiancée and splurge a little on the engagement ring (which people will notice more and everyone will ask to see). Don't forget to ensure them!
- **Bands and DJs:** You'll generally pay double for a live band, so stick with a DJ if you're trying to cut costs, unless you are really set on hiring a live band, or this is an important area for you. Find friends or family members to handle the ceremony music.



- **Invitations and Paper Products:** From announcements to a guest book, invites, reply cards and even table place cards, the wedding paper products needed do start to add up. Consider splurging more on your actual invitations and thank-you cards, and less on the other items. Many of these items can also be sourced inexpensively online.
- **Photography and videography:** Having a friend or family member take photos or videos can save you money, but may not look as professional as someone hired. Remember that the photos and videos will last forever, so this is not an area of your wedding to necessarily skimp. Consider encouraging guests to take photos throughout the wedding and post them online to supplement your own efforts and capture candid shots.

When it comes to planning the perfect Indianapolis wedding on a budget, it just takes some creativity. Just keep in mind what's important to you and find ways here and there to skimp, and you'd be surprised at what you can save.

Tags: wedding budget, Indianapolis weddings, bride to be