

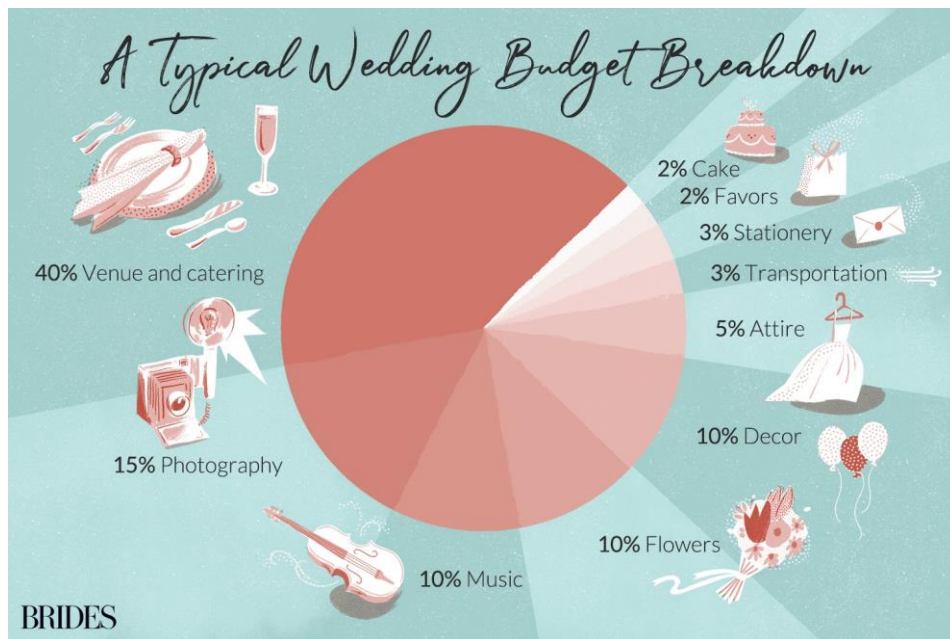
Getting Real about your wedding budget

Do we really have to talk about money now? Yes, you really do.

For some, talking about money is taboo. For others, it is just plain uncomfortable. Your wedding may be the single biggest “purchase” you will make together. The first thing to know is who is paying for the wedding, is it the two of you or are parents hosting? Either way, you need to know what your resources are and where they are coming from. Once you have this in mind, it will help you to find a venue and vendors that make sense for you.

Here is a basic list of vendors that you may be working with:

- Venue
- Catering
- Rentals
- Photographer
- Videographer
- Florist
- Entertainment
- Attire (gown, suit, etc.)
- Officiant
- Cake
- Decor
- Planner or Coordinator
- Invitations
- Transportation
- Travel/lodging



Your total wedding budget will influence how much you spend on each element of your big day. No matter where you live, it is safe to say that the venue and catering will be close to half of the money you have to work with. How much you spend with the other vendors will vary somewhat based on your priorities; if you love flowers and décor you may spend more on that and look for a less costly venue or do more of the leg work on your own and have a day-of coordinator rather than full service planning. Keep in mind that catering, cake, invitations, flowers and transportation may be impacted by the number of guests. The price you pay for the venue, entertainment and officiant will likely not be impacted by the final number of guests.

Your wedding day will be the sum of choices and will reflect your creativity as a couple.