



B2B
Bride 2 Be

**WEDDING PLANNING
QUICK GUIDE**

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Introduction:

Congratulations! You are engaged! Now comes the exciting (and sometimes overwhelming) task of planning your wedding. This “Quick Guide” is your roadmap to a stress-free and joyful planning experience. We will briefly cover everything from setting a budget and choosing a venue to crafting the perfect ceremony and reception.

Chapter 1: Pre-Planning

The Man With The Plan

Pre-planning is just that. Your wedding is, like a friend of mine says, your Superbowl. Getting the details right before you pick a venue, vendors, etc. is a key to success. Your wedding is the biggest event you will probably ever host. So, make a good comprehensive game plan.

The Dream Team - You & Your Partner

Wedding planning is a team effort. Before diving in, have open conversations with your partner about your vision, budget, priorities, and guest list. Discuss must-haves, dealbreakers, and any cultural or religious traditions you want to incorporate.

Budget Bliss

Be realistic about finances. Discuss how much you and your families are comfortable contributing. Create a detailed budget spreadsheet allocating funds for each aspect (venue, attire, catering, etc.). Remember to factor in hidden costs like taxes, gratuities, and permits.

Guest List Goals

Consider the size and vibe you are going for. Make initial guest estimates for both sides and prioritize your "must-haves".

Chapter 2: The Perfect Venue

Finding Your Fairytale Setting

Research venues that fit your guest count, budget, and desired style (rustic barn, elegant ballroom, beachside paradise). Consider factors like accessibility, parking, catering restrictions, and ceremony space availability.

Schedule venue tours with detailed questions. Negotiate on pricing, catering packages, and vendor limitations.

Setting the Stage - Ceremony & Reception

Whether saying your vows at a church, family home or right at the reception venue you will need to think about ceremony layout (seating, arch, processional), reception flow (dance floor, seating arrangement), and overall ambiance.

Chapter 3: The Ceremony - A Celebration of Love

Vows & I Do's

Craft personal and meaningful vows or choose traditional ones. Decide on an officiant, music, readings, and any special touches (unity candle, sand ceremony). Pick the brain of a Wedding Planner, DJ and/or Venue Coordinator for help with many of these particulars. They do weddings all the time and can have valuable advice. This is why choosing the right professional vendors is so important. (Which we will discuss more later)

Dressed to Impress

Find attire that reflects your style and flatters your body type. Do not forget shoes, accessories, and attire for your partner and wedding party.

Chapter 4: The Cocktail Hour - Mingling & Merriment

Appetizers & Ambiance

Offer a selection of hors d'oeuvres, signature cocktails, and non-alcoholic drinks. Create a welcoming atmosphere with music, and lighting. Your guest should be presented with an opportunity to chat. Music should be played at “elevator” levels.

Chapter 5: The Reception - Let the Party Begin!

Food Glorious Food

Dinner is usually early in the reception. Seating arrangements and table settings will be important to nail down for this segment of the evening.

You will also need to decide whether you will “Say Grace” prior to the meal and have someone prepared to offer the blessing, if this is so desired.

Choose a catering style (plated dinner, buffet, food stations) that suits your budget and preferences. Consider dietary restrictions and offer a variety of options. Do not forget the wedding cake!

The A-Team - Essential Vendors

Secure reliable vendors for catering, photography, videography, entertainment, hair and makeup, transportation, and rentals (tables, chairs, linens). Research, compare prices, and read reviews before booking and schedule free consultations.

Entertainment Extravaganza

Hire a DJ that aligns with your musical tastes and desired atmosphere. Plan special dances (first dance, parent dances) and consider fun activities like photo booths. It is the DJ who operates the timeline. Meaning, there is not a part of the reception that does not involve some sort of music. A DJ should be able to handle the flow of the night and be flexible if a change is required mid-event. While a DJ is somewhat the host/emcee for the evening, a DJ should know that the evening is not about them but rather about the Bride and Groom and their guests.

Capture the Memories

Book a photographer whose style aligns with your vision. Discuss shot lists, desired locations, and editing preferences. Also choose a videographer, if your budget allows. Make sure to discuss the length of time each will provide their service. Will the videographer provide hard copies, digital, or both? Will they provide all video footage or just a small edited piece? Will the photographer provide all photos taken or just the edited versions? How long until you receive the final product?

The Negotiation Dance

Get quotes from multiple vendors and negotiate contracts to ensure all details are outlined (services, pricing, payment schedule, cancellation policy, etc.).

Chapter 6: The Final Touches

Tying Up Loose Ends

Confirm details with vendors a month before the wedding. Schedule consultations to discuss the evening and that vendor's specific role.

Delegate tasks to trusted friends and family. Create a detailed timeline for the wedding day. Include your vendors in this process. Often, Wedding Planners and the DJ will create a timeline with you.

Conclusion:

Remember, your wedding is a celebration of your love. Focus on creating a day that reflects your unique personalities and brings joy to you and your loved ones. Take a deep breath, enjoy the process, and congratulations on your upcoming happily ever after!

In Cooperation With
DJ Dave Event Services, LLC.
djeventservices.wixsite.com/home
djeventservices@gmail.com