

THE CHECKLIST

PHOTOGRAPHY.....GIFTS.....STATIONERY.....BEAUTY.....BACHELORETTE PARTY.....TECHNOLOGY

What They Would Have Done Differently

One hundred recent brides reveal their planning snafus, budget missteps, and registry regrets.

BY KATHERINE WARD

WHAT DO YOU REGRET SPLURGING ON?

Flowers	17%
Decorations	2%
Drinks	2%
Cake	6%
Dress	8%
Photos	12%
Hair & makeup	9%
Everything else	44%

"Programs. They weren't perfect and were hardly used."

WHAT DID YOU DO WITH YOUR DRESS?

Properly stored it	40%	Put it in my closet	42%
		Repurposed it	4%
		Other	14%



IF YOU PAID FOR YOUR OWN WEDDING, HOW LONG DID IT TAKE TO PAY OFF?

1 to 3 months	57%
4 to 6 months	16%
7 to 12 months	13%
Over a year	14%

WORTH THE EFFORT?

Yes	88%
No	12%

Did you use a wedding planner?



DID YOU REGISTER?

Yes
88%

No
12%

HOW MANY GIFTS DID YOU RETURN?

0-5
66%

6-10
34%



WHAT WERE THE BEST GIFTS YOU REGISTERED FOR?

1. Kitchen knives
2. "A duvet more expensive than I would have ever bought."
3. Vacuum cleaner



ANYTHING YOU WOULD HAVE LEFT OFF?

1. Blender
2. Wineglasses ("Who can keep 36 glasses in a NYC apartment?")
3. Serving platters
4. Formal china

WHAT WAS YOUR BRIDEZILLA MOMENT?

"I yelled at the caterer during the cocktail hour because the staff screwed up how I wanted the caviar served. I'm still horrified about my behavior."



"My new grandfather-in-law was caught cutting into the cake before we did. My guests had started to eat the cake! I ordered my caterer to stand guard."

"I made the florist redo the bridesmaid bouquets the day-of. I couldn't believe everyone let me do it. I kept waiting for someone to be like, 'Get ahold of yourself!'"

CAN YOU STILL DEFEND IT?

Yes	75%
No	25%

WHAT DO YOU WISH YOU HAD SPENT MORE ON?

Photos	21%
Flowers	16%
Cake	9%
Gown	9%
Everything else	45%

"A professional videographer. My uncle recorded us and wiped out the whole tape."

WHAT PART OF YOUR WEDDING IS THE MOST MEMORABLE?

"Sneaking a few cigarettes with my husband."

"Skinny-dipping."

"Getting in the limo after the reception to make our getaway."

"The rain, which was followed by a double rainbow."

"My brother walking me down the aisle."

"The look my hubby gave me when he first saw me."

WHAT MEMORIES MAKE YOU CRINGE?

"The tons of posed photos with our family. They already look dated."

"The drunk people at the reception. At least they had fun."

"I sound bratty on the video forcing my mom to dance with my brother during the father-daughter dance."

WHAT DO YOU WISH YOU PAID MORE/LESS ATTENTION TO?



MORE

"Reapplying lipstick."

"Spending time with our friends instead of our parents' coworkers."

"Eating."

"Dragging our family onto the dance floor."



LESS

"Flowers in the bathroom."

"The wording on the invitations."

"I put so much effort into finding toeless pantyhose that I took off midday anyway."

"Seating charts."

"People should be up dancing."

PHOTOGRAPHS: TETRA IMAGES/SALAMY (DRESS); JOHN WILKINS/SALAMY (GIFT); COURTESY OF DYSON (VACUUM); ZONAR GIBBI/SALAMY (FLOWERS); PHOTOCURSE/ALAMY (CAKE)