

# bridal wishes

## Planning the Wedding

In contemplating the myriad details that go into creating a wedding, you may feel a bit overwhelmed. If so, you're not alone. Even the woman who's been planning her wedding since childhood

will usually experience a shockwave or two when faced with transforming her dreams into reality. It's definitely a challenge, so before you start setting up meetings, take a little time to focus.

Begin by considering each aspect of your wedding: the ceremony, your gown and your bridesmaids' dresses, the flowers and decorations, the menu and the music. Use a wedding calendar checklist to acquaint yourself with all the elements that go into making a wedding. Jot down any ideas, colours or moods that appeal to you.

Ask your fiance for his thoughts. He'll enjoy being part of the planning, and can be a great help when it comes to juggling meetings and making decisions. If you need more assistance, your mother is probably eager to help. Ask friends to refer florists, musicians and caterers. They might find it fun to go shopping with you, offering their opinions.

What if you're too busy to personally oversee the preparations? In that case you might want to

hire a wedding consultant. Consultants are privy to abundant resources and have names and numbers of the best caterers, florists, musicians and others in your area. The comfort and advice of an expert can be invaluable to you.

There are other circumstances, too, in which a bride-to-be might benefit from the services of a consultant. For example if your wedding will be a large, extravagant affair, you may quickly discover that you don't have the logistical expertise to handle all the plans yourself. Or perhaps you don't want to handle them; maybe organization has never been your strong suit. Perhaps your wedding will take place in another city, and you won't get a chance to visit every site and interview every vendor yourself.

No matter what your situation, hiring a consultant will free you to spend more time with your family, friends and fiance in the exciting months prior to your wedding day. Visit the Wedding Channel Web site at [www.weddingschannel.com](http://www.weddingschannel.com).

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