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FEBRUARY 2022

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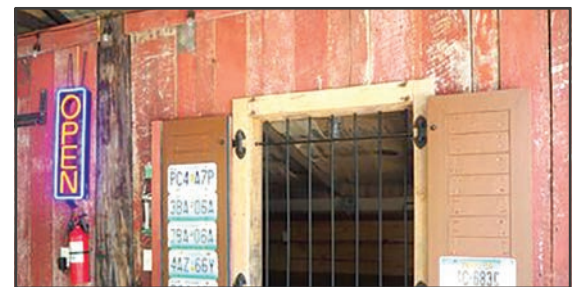
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# Bridal Jewelry: Time to Shine

Something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue. All of your bases can be covered by bridal baubles.

Jewelry is an integral part of your bridal ensemble, and not just your ring, either. Here's how to make sure you shine on your big day.

## START AT THE TOP

Every little girl dreams of being a princess on their big day and some of that dream can come true with a tiara. Tiaras can range into the hundreds of dollars and more, just like other kinds of jewelry.

They can be luxe or minimalist, and are always a great way to dress up even the most simple dress. When choosing a tiara, keep your hairstyle and veil in mind. You may want to let your stylist know you're planning on a tiara and have it on hand when they try out your hairstyle.

## EARRINGS

If you're going with a tiara, you'll want your earrings to coordinate. This may be a great place to get your something old (maybe a family set of simple diamond studs or pearls) in.

And, just like with the tiara, you want to coordinate your earrings with your hairdresser. They'll want to show off particularly dangly styles.

## BASE YOUR LOOK ON YOUR BORROWED PIECES

Don't let your aunt's pearls down. Instead, make them the centerpiece of your jewelry.

And, experts at Brides say, it's perfectly acceptable to mix your metals and gemstones, so don't be afraid to make your look your own. If a piece is being given to you, not just loaned for the big day, Brides suggests working with a jeweler into remaking it into a piece you really love.

## NECKLACES

Match your necklace to your neckline, Brides says. That means pendants with a V-neck, chokers and statement necklaces with strapless or sweetheart necklines, and so forth. The necklace should sit on your skin if any skin is showing.

Remember, though, don't feel pressured to do anything. Make your look your own, whether it was old, new, borrowed or blue. And don't be afraid to stand up to friends or family members to make your wedding day your own. You can also switch things up at any time, even the day of. If you find a jewelry piece or a look you love, find a place to wear it at the reception or a party or shower before or after your wedding.



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# Show Your Favor

Wedding favors let your guests know you care and provide them with a tangible memory of your big day.

Wedding website The Knot says the average cost of favors is about \$400, so it's not a small part of your budget, either. Here are some great ideas for showing your guests that they're your favorite on your wedding day.

## TINY TOTS (NO, NOT THAT KIND)

Find miniature bottles of liquor, wine or beer to give out to your guests. Look for a brand that comes from near the site of your wedding. You may even be able to order customized tags for your big day. Don't forget to offer a non-alcoholic option, too, for those who don't imbibe.

## DRINKWARE

This category runs the gamut, but think along the lines of koozies if you live in a warmer area and have a list full of outdoorsy guests. For more upscale venues and budgets, look for customizable shot glasses, mugs or julep cups. These are great ways to give a reusable gift that can remind your guests of your big day.

## CUSTOMIZED PLAYING CARDS

If your friends and family never met a game they didn't like, customized playing cards may be an ace in the hole. You can get cards with pictures of you and your love through customization sites such as Shutterfly.

## LIVE PLANTS

Setting an outdoor scene? Let your guests take some of the gorgeousness home with them in the form of live plants. That way, your love can grow in everyone's home. Look for succulents (trendy and easy to care for), seedling trees and more. Visit a local nursery for ideas on native plants that will do especially well in your climate.

## DESTINATION FAVORS

Hitting the road for your I-do's is a lot of fun and gives you a great opportunity to select some amazing wedding favors.

You can choose to go the travel route and pick items like luggage tags, hand sanitizers or some travel snacks. Or you can choose items specific to your destination, such as giving personalized jars of sunscreen out at a beach wedding.



**BRIDES**  
& Grooms

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# Hot Registry Items

Marshall Field's in Chicago started the first bridal registry in 1924 as a way for the happy couple to indicate chosen crystal, china and silver patterns to their friends and family.

Since then, the registry has come a long way. Couples can register online for any number of things for their new household or even for their honeymoon. Here are some of the hottest gifts to register for according to The Knot.

## SMART APPLIANCES

Coffee pots, vacuums and even the lowly toaster all have high-tech brains nowadays that connect them to the internet of things. The Revolution 2-slice high-speed smart toaster (\$299) has 63 settings with technology that uses intelligent heating algorithms to sear rather than bake your baked goods for a crisp out-side and a soft, chewy inside.

## LUGGAGE

As more places open up post-pandemic, more couples are hitting the road. A set of luggage is a great, traditional gift for the

adventurous couple. Make sure you choose a set that fits your lifestyle. If you spend a lot of time camping, you should choose duffel bags instead of those hard-sided bags with a built-in charger.

## LINENS

Towels, sheets and other goods are also standbys on the wedding registry. What's new is the popularity of high-tech fabrics that are more sustainable and last longer than traditional choices. Make sure to make color and pattern choices that are classic and will last you for years.

## ELECTRONICS

Today's houses are high-tech, as we've seen before with the toaster, so it's not unusual to add some electronics to your wedding registry. Think of things such as soundbars, robotic vacuums and air purifiers. Consider the Cuisinart convection toaster oven (\$179), which puts the power of a convection oven right on your countertop. It's a budget-friendly way to get the versatility of the convection oven with-



out having to replace a major appliance.

## KITCHEN APPLIANCES

Beyond the smart appliances, many couples are also registering for some appliances that may not have been on your mom's wedding registries. These include things like air fryers, espresso machines, electronic pressure cookers and immersion blenders.

Another popular option is the Nomad six-quart traveling slow cooker (\$74). It looks like a lunch cooler, but it cooks on the go. It features a nonstick surface for easy clean-up and has a cool-touch surface for safe handling.



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# Out-of-Town Guests

There are a million details to consider when planning your wedding. One of them is the guest list, and the part of the guest list that may get overlooked is how to treat your guests coming in from out of town.

Keep reading to find out how to treat your out-of-town guests.

## EARLY AND OFTEN

The traveling part of your guest list needs to know your date and other plans as soon as possible so they can start saving for and plan their travel. You can also help plan their trip. Give them information on where to go while they're in town, including shopping, dining and local attractions they shouldn't miss.

You'll also want to repeat this information on a variety of platforms. Mail traditional invitations and information, but also set up social media sites, send emails and make all your information as accessible as you can to your traveling guests.



## GIVE OUT GOODIES

Your out-of-town guests are taking a lot of their own time to be there for your big day.

Consider leaving them a bag in their hotel rooms to make them feel welcome and show your appreciation. Go beyond the old standbys of water and mints. Include things people often forget while traveling, like a toothbrush. Also drop in some hand lotion or soap from a local maker.

## TRANSPORTATION TIPS

Arrange for transportation for your guests insofar as you can. You don't have to rent them cars, but you should at least arrange for transportation to and from the ceremony and any related events. Organize carpools, use a shuttle, limo service, or whatever your budget allows for. You can also arrange for trips from the airport, especially for infrequent travelers or people that don't drive.

## THROW A PARTY

You've got a lot to do before your big day, so ask a friend or family member to host a welcome party for your out-of-towners. It can be a laid-back affair with just drinks and appetizers or a full-blown meal, depending on your schedule and the independence of the people on your guest list. You want to strike a balance between letting your guests have time on their own and leaving them without anything to do.



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# Five Great Reception Ideas

Vows, gowns and flowers take center stage at the wedding, but the reception can really be your time to shine as a couple. The party should represent who you both are as a couple and celebrate your unique love for one another and for your friends and family.

Here are some eye-catching ways to do that, courtesy of The Knot.

## GET CREATIVE WITH THE GUESTBOOK

Sure, you can have a regular guestbook and pen. Or you can get out of the boring box. Think about a way guests can leave their best wishes for you in a way that reflects your hobbies, loves or values. Are the bride and groom sports fans? Signed baseballs, footballs or basketballs are great ways to reflect that.

## CHECK YOUR PHONES

If you want your guests to be present and in the moment (and you don't have a hashtag for your wedding), consider setting up a phone check station similar to a coat check at your



favorite restaurant. Recruit a couple of friends to man the desk and guests can check their devices in and out.

## RECHARGING STATIONS

On the other end of that spectrum, you can set up recharging stations around your reception to make sure everyone keeps their Instagram feeds updated with the hottest pictures from your big day. Take a cue from event plan-

ning and make sure the stations are convenient but out of the way of the dance floor and that there are plenty of comfortable places to sit around it.

## COOL COCKTAIL IDEAS

Bespoke cocktails are so last year. Jazz up the bar at your reception with hot ideas like ice cubes with your monogram and drink pouches — adult and otherwise.

Talk to your caterer about more ideas to personalize your food and drink options in creative ways.

## SCENTSCAPING

Long winter nights are perfect for candlelight decor, and with candles comes the opportunity for planning the perfect scents for your wedding and reception. Plus, scent is tied to memory, so the smell of your favorite candles will bring back happy memories for years to come. Just make sure that the scent is light enough not to aggravate guests with allergies and sensitivities.

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# Set Up a Fun Photo Booth

You want to provide ways for your guests to remember your special night. What better way than to give them a fun keepsake they can hang on to for years to come?

A photo booth makes this a possibility. With fun props and hilarious photos, you'll have high-end mementos for every guest who participates.

## HIRE A COMPANY

Many photographers have integrated the photo booth into their professional services. If it's in your budget to do so, you can hire a photography company to set up and manage the booth during your entire reception.

Be sure to get a full quote for the project so you're not surprised on your wedding day. Any professional photographer should be able to tell you how much a booth setup will

be, as well as how long it will take them to prepare and tear down the booth.

Let them take care of the heavy lifting, including selecting the spot, providing the equipment, bringing the props and handling the dissemination of photographs to each guest while you sit back and enjoy your special day.

## GO DIY

If you're on a tighter budget, you may find yourself putting together a DIY booth. Fortunately, with a little planning, this is a totally doable project.

First, consider your location. Your DIY photo booth should be located where guests can easily find it. Be sure to never interrupt the flow of your event, which means placing it in dance floor corners or

unused coat closets.

If your reception is outside, you'll probably have more space to find a suitable location. Just make sure guests can easily access it for some memorable photo fun.

## THINK VIDEO

Video and virtual reality booths have also caught fire in recent years. You may need to enlist the help of professional videographers to pull off this type of booth.

Guests can act silly or deliver a special message via video, and then download the file with a special link from the company.

This is a great way of producing a tangible parting gift for each guest.

You may also be able to immediately upload some of the videos to your wedding website or social media platforms, as well.





# Why Do We Throw Rice?

Tossing rice or other grains at the newlyweds is a tradition as old as the hills. Rice, *Brides* magazine says, symbolizes fertility and prosperity for the new couple. Tossing the rice means you're blessing them with wishes of fruitfulness and wealth.

## THROUGH THE YEARS

The ancient Celts, *Brides* says, threw rice, millet and other grains to appease their gods and ask for blessings on the newlyweds. Ancient Romans tossed wheat, while in Morocco, they toss dried dates or figs. In India, it's a rain of flower petals.

In more recent years, tossing rice has met with objections that the leftover grains can harm wildlife. The state of Connecticut even introduced a bill in 1985 to ban throwing rice to save birds. However, *Brides* says that Audubon officials in the state never heard of rice killing birds and subsequent testing has shown it to be safe. What rice can do is be a slip hazard for your guests. So someone should be tasked with cleaning up after the rice throw to keep things picked up and safe.

## HOW AND WHEN

Before your ceremony, have small packets of rice ready for your

guests. They can be distributed by your ushers, tied to your programs or left on chairs.

You should task people with letting them know when you would like rice to be tossed and also list it in the program. The rice toss can be when the couple walks out of the ceremony, during a group photo or when the couple arrives at the reception.

## ALTERNATIVES

There are several reasons why you want to skip the rice toss. Maybe you and your partner aren't planning to have children. Perhaps you'd like to avoid the safety hazards with rice or want a greener option. Here are some alternatives to consider.

- Bird seeds.
- Dried flowers.
- Herbs.
- Flower petals.
- Biodegradable confetti.

You can also pass out small bells to have guests ring or ribbons to wave. There are lots of options that can match your wedding theme, venue and personality. Get creative, just make sure you pick up after yourselves and have a safe celebration.

# Storing Your Wedding Dress

If you receive your wedding dress well in advance or are experiencing a wedding postponement, you may be wondering how to properly store your dress.

Gowns are a big expense, and keeping them properly maintained can give you confidence that you are protecting your investment.

There are some steps to take to ensure your gown is in flawless condition for your special day.

Your boutique or local bridal salon will be able to give you specific instructions on best care and storage, but the best guidance is typically in a dark, dry spot that doesn't have access to direct light. Something else to keep in mind is that humidity and direct sunlight can cause bleaching or fabric decay. Follow the tips below to make sure you're doing everything you can to keep your gown in perfect shape.

## CLOSET STORAGE

If you plan on storing your wedding dress in your closet, experts recommend you use the hanger straps to keep everything in the best shape possible. You should also utilize a breathable fabric storage bag instead of a plastic bag, especially throughout the warmer months. This will help keep moisture buildup to a minimum, which will help reduce the chance of stubborn odors creeping in.

## STORING HEAVIER GOWNS

Some experts provide specifications for even heavier material, which can include ornate beading or structured lace.

These extra items can weigh down the dress and damage it if it's hanging for too long a time period. In that case, you may be better off taking the gown off the hanger, placing a sheet down on your bed and folding the gown into the sheet for flat storage. Once you have it folded it up, you can place it in your closet or under your bed for safe-keeping.

## DON'T FORGET YOUR BRIDESMAIDS

The same dress storage rules apply for other members of your bridal party. And on top of storage, experts recommend that you try your dress on once per month, every month until the event.

This will help ensure a proper-fitting dress come wedding time. This can be particularly important advice if you have a dress that has been altered.



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# A DIY Wedding Checklist

As a bride or groom, planning a wedding can be a beautiful experience. Some of the benefits are being able to control all of the creative decisions along the way.

It can also be a lot to handle if done incorrectly.

Fortunately, there are some tried and true things to remember when putting together a plan for your wedding. Follow along with the checklist below to make sure you're not forgetting anything as your special day nears.

## CREATE A BUDGET

Paying for your wedding doesn't have to break the bank. With proper planning, you can pull off the event of your dreams if you stay within a predetermined budget.

How much you're willing to spend will be determined by what is available to you, either through your own savings or financial help from family members.

Either way, creating a realistic budget will help you stay focused as you secure things like the venue, band, food and photographers.

## RESERVE THE VENUES

Once you've landed on a wedding date, choose the venue or venues where your event will be taking place. Many couples are following the recent trend of holding the wedding ceremony and reception in the same building.

This can cut down on logistics and travel for guests, making it a one-stop-shop for all of your wedding festivities. No matter what you decide, it's important to lock down your venues early, especially with the boomerang effect many planners are anticipating as once pandemic-delayed weddings are starting to happen again.

## GET INVITES OUT EARLY

There are certain components of any wedding that take more time than others to execute. Invites are one of them. Unless you're creating each one by hand, you'll be depending on a printer and any related shipping delays before they can go out to your guests.

Consider using a local printing company to handle your job. They can work with you on printing and shipping your invites at a good cost.

Make sure the invite process is collaborative with your spouse. Forgetting to invite someone from your family or friend network is something you definitely want to avoid.



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# Showers of Flowers



Yellow is having a moment this year. One of Pantone's colors of the year is Illuminating, a bright yellow that's spirited and energetic.

If you've picked sunny tones for your wedding palette, the good news is that there are plenty of blossoms that will give a pop to your bouquets, boutonnieres and more.

## ROSES

Yellow roses are classic additions to wedding bouquets. There are hundreds of yellow rose varieties. Each has their own shading, fragrance and bloom shape. The National Gardening Association says there are several forms of rose blooms, including the spherical cupped shape, high-centered blooms, flat blooms, quartered blooms, rosettes, pompoms and globular blooms. With so many

shapes to choose from, it's easy to find the right rose for your look.

## HELLEBORES

Looking for a bloom of a different color? Hellebores have pointed, leathery leaves with textured centers that range in color from white to purple, including a variety of shades of green. Some yellow hellebores can even have edging or centers in other colors, including a stunning deep purple.

## LILIES

Showy, trumpet-shaped lilies are stunning stars of any bridal bouquet. Many varieties also have a pleasant fragrance that festoons many a spring wedding. You can get classic, star-shaped Asiatic lilies, Golden splendor trumpet lilies, dramatic Caucasian lilies and the classic, vase-shaped calla lily.

## TULIPS

Tulips are spring classics. They come in almost every color of the rainbow, and their simple cup shape and long stems make them perfect for elegant bridal bouquets. Tulips come in many shades from a creamy, buttery tone all the way to neon yellow. Looking for more drama? Ask your florist for ruffled or double tulips.

## DAISIES

If you're going rustic for your nuptials, consider a bouquet of daisies. Gerbera daisies have big blooms that can get up to five inches in diameter and are more budget friendly than other flowers. Also look for black-eyed Susans. Their brown centers give your bouquet texture and depth, especially when paired with

plenty of greenery.

## YARROW

These flat-topped bunches of tiny golden blooms are perfect to accent larger blooms in your bouquet. Yarrow can be arranged dried or fresh. Yarrow also has fern-like leaves that can be used in your arrangements.

## SUNFLOWERS

There may not be a more yellow flower than sunflowers. They can get up to dinner-plate sized and make great cut flowers. With their dark centers and showy, sunny petals, these flowers make for beautiful bouquet centerpieces and lovely table arrangements.

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# COVID-Friendly Receptions

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continues to recommend avoiding large events and gatherings.

Weddings and receptions, however, may be possible in areas that permit such gatherings or with a pared-down guest list.

## BEFORE YOU PLAN

Don't set your heart on a huge blowout without first considering the number of COVID-19 cases in your community, the CDC says. High or increasing levels of coronavirus infection there or in the areas people are traveling from to attend your wedding can pose a danger to your community.

Outdoor events are less risky, the CDC says, as are shorter events. Make sure you have enough room for people to circulate and social distance. Make sure you can encourage mask-wearing and hand washing. You may also need to consider any extra rules your venues have in place.

## CREATIVE IDEAS FOR A COVID-FRIENDLY RECEPTIONS

Here Comes the Guide listed these creative COVID wedding ideas.

- A drive-in movie. Set up your wedding and host a drive-in with the ceremony happening live but also projected onto a big screen and live-streamed for other guests. That way, each family could stay with their own group but still celebrate.
- Social distancing wristbands or pins. Offer your guests pins or wristbands that let them communicate their comfort level with socializing.
- A wedding tailgate. Guests parking their cars and standing with their household while the newlyweds walk through the rows to greet everyone. Afterwards, there is a car parade.

## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A PARED-DOWN GUEST LIST

Instead of despairing about possibly having fewer guests at your wedding ceremony, consider that a smaller guest list means more opportunity to have a really unique wedding day. Things like intimate, personalized toasts and speeches, a more luxe venue that may not have originally been in your budget or an updated reception menu may all be on the table.

## PLAN A SECOND CEREMONY

Many brides are opting for a second, larger ceremony after their coronavirus-limited ceremony, says wedding dress designer Karen Willis Holmes.

"We can't recommend enough that you do something extra special to take the attention off of the things you can't do and put focus on making the absolute most out of your big day," the designer says on her website.



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# INNSBROOK

## WEDDINGS

You already said *yes!*, but where will you say *I do!*? The perfect day begins with the perfect setting. Innsbrook features multiple indoor and outdoor ceremony venues that will leave you and your guests in awe. Plus, we offer a wedding coordinator, on-site catering, overnight accommodations, rehearsals, showers, receptions, and more. Visit us for a tour and see it for yourself. We'll help make your dreams come true!

[INNSBROOKWEDDINGS.COM](http://INNSBROOKWEDDINGS.COM)

*the knot*  
**BEST OF  
WEDDINGS**  
2022

