

WEDDINGS

North Central Washington Style

Spring's a popular time of year for weddings

Spring is a popular time of year for weddings for a number of reasons. The weather gives you options not available during the potentially hot summer months or unpredictable winter and fall.

For the most part, you can count on spring's mild temperatures and its steady weather patterns — especially in late spring. The spring also gives you flexibility when it comes to planning a bridal shower. Friends of the bride have long put their heads together to pull off a memorable shower experience that all involved parties remember for years to come.

Here are some of the most important things to remember when throwing a shower:

- Decide on a date that is ideal for all attendees usually a weekend day when getting off of work isn't an issue.

- Choose your venue and make sure you book it months ahead of time.

There's nothing worse than having to go to your backup plan just because you didn't plan ahead.

- Plan (and stick to) your budget. Set a budget for the entire event and make sure you follow it during both the planning and execution phases. Your fellow bridesmaids will likely pitch in to

help you avoid overspending on this special event.

SHOWER IDEAS

Below are some ideas for what kinds of spring bridal showers you can plan for your friend or family member. Don't forget to incorporate the bride's likes and dislikes into the festivities. For example, if the outdoors isn't really her thing, a daylong event filled with lawn games probably isn't your best bet. Be creative, be practical and most of all be fun.

SPA PARTY

A spa bridal shower is a great way to relax the bride during this anxious time. Consider booking your local spa or hiring a couple of professionals to come to you. A DIY spa station could include a massage table, a facial space and a mani-pedi seat. Be sure to play relaxing music and deck your place out with soothing decorations.

FOOD PARTY

What bride doesn't love food — especially healthy food to help her



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Horseshoes is a time-tested lawn game perfect for all ages.

stay trim and fit for her special day? Set up a food-themed party to let your guests indulge on deli sandwiches, cheese and crackers, vegetables and fruit salads.

PERFUME BAR

If your venue allows it, a perfume bar is a unique addition to your bridal shower. This is a great complement to a spa location. Ask the company's management if they would permit you to put together a table area full of perfumes for

sampling throughout the shower.

RECEPTION ENTERTAINMENT

Lawn games let your guests wind down after your formal ceremony. They also make for great conversation and friendly competition that bring out the best in your friends and family members. Lawn games are not only fun but inexpensive, as well. You can even build them yourself. Decide which lawn games you're hoping to incorporate

and head to the hardware store for lumber and other necessities. Some of the most popular lawn games include bags, Frisbee golf and lawn darts. Make your own scoring systems and rules to make things more interesting.

Here are a few more ideas:

HORSESHOES

Horseshoes is a time-tested lawn game perfect for all ages. Minimal equipment is needed for setup, making it the perfect DIY lawn game for your

reception. You can likely find a horseshoe set at your local hardware or toy store. Or you could make your own by purchasing a few steel rebar rods about 1 inch thick and getting your hands on some actual horseshoes. Check in with family members who have horses or even your local horse veterinarian to see if they have any extras lying around.

You'll have a legitimate horseshoe lawn game set up in no time.

FOR THE KIDS

Let's say you plan on having four or five lawn games set up for the adults at your reception. This is a good number that allows rotation between games and includes plenty of guests in the fun. But what about the kids? Children's lawn games

can include pin-the-tail-on-the-donkey, potato sack races or simply smaller versions of the adult games you have set up. Whatever you choose, be sure to assign someone to supervise the activity to ensure optimal safety.

The wedding dress

The wedding dress. So many hours of research, fitting and re-fitting for only a few hours of glory. But once your special day comes and goes, deciding what to do with the gown can be a difficult choice for many brides. Should you keep it stored away as a memento of your wedding day or let it go?

KEEP IT

When deciding to keep your gown, it's important to determine why. Are you hoping to one day hand over your dress to your daughter? If so, keeping the gown in a basement, attic or back of the closet may not be an ideal storage option. Garment profes-



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Garment professionals recommend you properly clean and store your gown for optimal life span.

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span. Simply shutting it away and forgetting about it can lead to a ragged, faded garment after even a short period of time.

DONATE IT

If you have no future plans to give away your dress to a family member or friend, why not donate it to charity? Organizations such as Brides Against Breast Cancer use donated dresses to put on their Nationwide Tour of Gowns effort, which raises funds to contribute to programs for cancer patients and their families. Check in with your local charitable organizations or consignment

shops to see if there is a need for donated dresses in your area.

SELL IT

Another option for your gown after your wedding is selling it to make back some of your own costs. This may be a great option if the dress is very valuable and if the company you bought it from has a flexible buy-back program. There are also a variety of online options for selling your gown. Many companies buy and sell pre-owned wedding dresses. Just don't expect to get top-dollar out of these bargain services.

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Go green for your big day

According to a poll by the Clinton Global Initiative and Microsoft, 66 percent of millennials believe there is solid evidence of global warming, and about 75 percent say it is of human activity. In turn, these environmental advocates are taking action by planning weddings that rely less on disposable products and fossil fuels and more on sustainable practices that can lead to a healthier environment. Follow our suggestions below to integrate a little of this approach into your spring wedding.

CHOOSE EARTH-FRIENDLY VENDORS

One of the most meaningful steps you can take is to enlist the services of Earth-friendly vendors. These businesses are committed to following environmentally sound processes when



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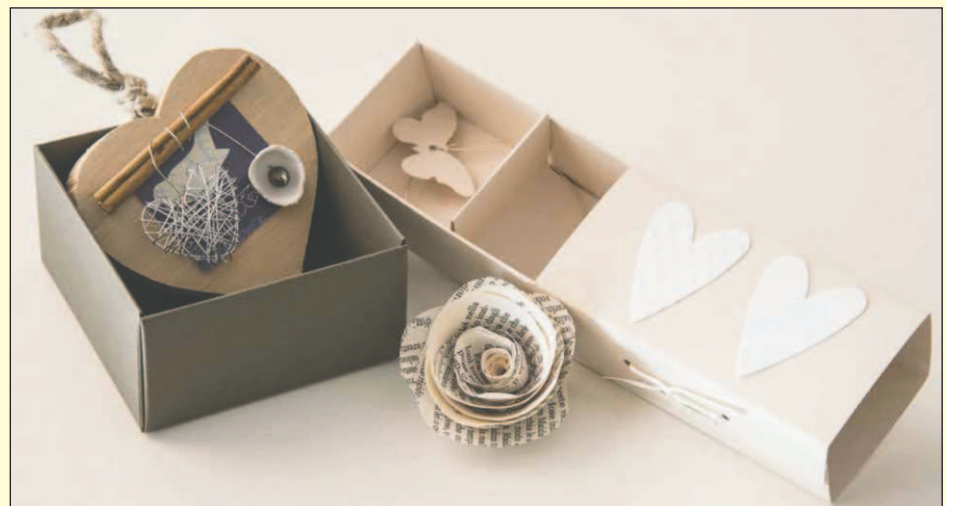
Companies across the country collect flowers after weddings and repurpose them for delivery to nursing homes and shelter facilities.

producing and delivering their products, which can range from paper flower bouquets to sustainable invitations. There are card companies that print their materials on 100 percent post-consumer recycled paper or alternative non-tree fibers. Some businesses pledge to plant a tree for every order you make with them. Knowing you had a positive impact on the environment in

your wedding planning will give you that extra feeling of satisfaction.

CHOOSE LOCAL VENDORS

The less distance you put between your church and reception hall, the less pollution you are inviting into the atmosphere through the burning of gasoline in the vehicles of your wedding party. This seems like a small step,



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but consider how many cars will be traveling around town on the day of your wedding. Inviting 200 guests means you're probably also inviting 50 to 100 vehicles onto your community's roadways. That's a large carbon footprint you could lessen by keeping things confined to the same building or ones that are close in proximity.

RECYCLE YOUR FLOWERS

Many companies across the country collect flowers after weddings and repurpose them for delivery to nursing homes and shelter facilities. By choosing to participate in such an arrangement, you are passing along some

of the beauty of your wedding to even more people around you. These companies also keep your flowers out of landfills by composting them into usable materials for gardens and other uses. Look around in your area for these types of services or offer to do it yourself in collaboration with your local nursing homes or shelters.

Choosing performers

Music is one of the most important parts of any wedding celebration. Finding the perfect musical act or DJ can be a frustrating exercise if you're not prepared for the search.

Before deciding on your final choice for music, ask some basic questions along with any others specific to your wedding.

Do you perform original music or play cover songs?

This is a question for a band you are consider hiring. You want to make sure their musical preferences match what you're looking for. Weddings are generally an atmosphere where cover bands may be a better fit, but this is up to you.

What is your price range, and can I get a quote on



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paper?

Making sure you have a written quote will help resolve any confusion come payment time.

How many weddings have you performed for in

the past couple of years?

This answer may be one of the most important, as you want to make sure the company is experienced and up to the challenge.

Will you be providing the

equipment and song list? Can you take requests?

A "no" answer to any of these questions could lead to more work for you as you try to coordinate what will be played during your

ceremony.

Do you only play one event per day?

You want to make sure you have the full attention of the musical act or DJ during your wedding.

Are you easy to get in touch with if I have questions throughout the music planning process?

A good musical act or DJ will surely answer "yes."

A good follow-up question is for a list of references just to make sure you can conduct a little follow-up research.

Do you also do announcements?

It's a great bonus to have your wedding band or DJ make announcements throughout the night. That's one less thing for you to worry about.

2020 Wedding Directory Shopping Guide

Bumfields Party Rental & Supply

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Cashmere Pioneer Village & Museum

Celebrate this important day with your family and friends on the lovely grounds of the Cashmere Museum's charming Pioneer Village. Whether you are planning a wedding ceremony, or scheduling a photo shoot, this outdoor venue offers the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable experience. Weddings may be formal or informal, large or small, and equine friends are even welcome! The space includes a park-like setting, certified

kitchen, and a covered picnic pavilion. Near a number of popular reception spaces and just off Highway 2, our parking lot can accommodate shuttle buses. Please contact us at 509-782-3230 or info@cashmeremuseum.org for more information.

Clarks Jewelry

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Glaze Bakery

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