



Winter Weddings

Planning the Reception

After saying your vows and sharing the joyous moment of holy matrimony, your new spouse, family and friends will gather to celebrate.

The reception is a fun way to relax with your loved ones after a wedding day's sometimes stressful experience. Make your special event one to remember by planning an epic after-party.

If you live in a region where winter carries harsh conditions that cause driving hazards, consider renting a venue that offers lodging nearby.

This allows your guests to enjoy the event without worrying about leaving and facing icy roads or snow. If possible, look for a location that works with local hotels and offers bundled pricing to find great deals. Here are some other tips to consider when planning a winter wedding reception.

STICK TO A BUDGET

While you may dream of an extravagant reception, it's necessary to create a budget and stick to it during planning. You don't want to start the new journey of marriage with significant debt, related to the big day. Write down a precise dollar amount that you can comfortably afford and separate it into categories to pay for the essential ser-



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vices, including:

- Venue and meals.
- Live band or DJ.
- Decorations and favors for guests.
- Wedding cake and bar limit.

Try to plan your budget before spending a penny on the event to avoid making financial mistakes.

CONSIDER THE DETAILS

When planning a wedding reception to remember, you must nail down the important details regarding how the event will play out. Ask yourself these questions when creating your plan.

- Do you want to have a receiving line where guests can congratulate you individ-

ually or a less time-consuming strategy where you visit each table?

- Will the dinner be a sit-down style where invitees select their meal, or does a more informal buffet make sense?

- Will the wedding party be the only guests who are tasked with speeches, or can

anyone speak?

- Should the photographer take serious portraits at the reception or catch the party in action?

Remember that the reception should be an exciting way for guests to congratulate you on your wedding. Try to mix in a combination of fun and memorable events.

Using Indoor Space Wisely

While a winter setting will create a beautiful backdrop for your special day, there is a significant drawback that must be considered.

Depending on where you live, the cooler weather may ensure that some events will be held entirely indoors.

One way to avoid choosing venues that lack the room for your closest family and friends is to work with a wedding planner. Be honest about how many people you plan to invite. They will take the lead on finding buildings for the ceremony that are sized sufficiently.

Unfortunately, your budget may not always be in line with a suitable venue, forcing you to compromise. Consider what is essential for the wedding and acknowledge that cutting corners in other areas can compensate for the higher rental fees.

MAKE A SMALL VENUE APPEAR BIGGER

If you're stressed that an available venue appears too small to host a wedding, try to make up for the lack of minute floor plan. One easy trick is to limit the decorations you display. Too many accessories can make the area appear cluttered and take up valuable flooring space. Instead, try to use a few decorative wall



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hangings and non-intrusive accents to line the aisle.

You should also be conscientious about the perfect layout for seats. In most cases, round tables can be organized in various ways where guests enjoy their privacy. Long tables can lead to invitees sitting in close quarters and blocking paths for the flow of people.

Small spaces can also benefit from using lighting appropriately. Take advantage of quality lights to make the area appear larger and brighter by ensuring each side of the venue is lit accordingly.

MAKE A LARGE VENUE MORE INTIMATE

Another concern for your

wedding location may be that the venue is too large for the number of guests who will attend. Try to close and divide the space by bringing in attractive trees or plants to fill in corners or the entire perimeter of the room.

Drapes are also a great way to close off unused space of the building and ensure the

ceremony's attention is focused on the couple and the festivities.

You can also use a section of the room to create a comfortable and private lounge space for people to gather. This break in the action can be a welcome place for the bride, groom and wedding guests to gather.

Benefits of a Winter Wedding

Warm-weather weddings certainly have their place for hosting beautiful ceremonies, but winter offers several unique opportunities.

According to the 2019 WeddingWire Newlywed Report, lovebirds confirmed that autumn is ideal for getting hitched. Find out how avoiding saying your vows during the busiest time of the year can save money and enhance your big day.

FINANCIAL FLEXIBILITY

Your winter wedding doesn't have to cost a fortune. In most cases, the competition for scoring a great venue will be limited, allowing you to find a suitable building for a better price than warmer seasons.

If possible, plan to begin calling locations in advance to discover if they have winter rates and ensure you make your reservation early if others have the same idea.

You can sometimes find great value when working with a caterer. Local businesses may not see the same market as when the weather is warm.

Talk to your friends and peers who have used these services events to acquire a quality meal at a great value. In addition to menu planning, it's likely that other services like photographers, bands and



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wedding planners may be willing to work for lower fees than usual.

MORE GUESTS TO ATTEND

Between the kid's summer vacations and family get-aways, warmer weather encourages people to be on the go. As the cooler tempera-

tures approach and some begin to save money for the upcoming holidays, their schedules may be more flexible. When sending invitations, ask your potential guests to RSVP so you can plan accordingly. In some cases, you can share your big day with some who would not have attended if their busy schedules

couldn't accommodate another event.

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

If you find yourself struggling with falling into bad moods as winter approaches, you're not alone. The National Institute of Mental Health says that Seasonal Affective

Disorder is a type of depression that typically starts in the late fall and early winter until disappearing during the spring.

Rewrite your calendar by scheduling a cool-weather wedding and creating a life-long memory of warmth and excitement as the season approaches.

Winter-Inspired Favors

One of the less stressful aspects of planning a wedding is deciding on party favors for your guests. Spark your creative side by crafting homemade gifts that celebrate the winter season.

Try to offer items that will last for the coming years so your loved ones can remember and cherish the day as much as you.

If you need to get inspired, visit your favorite hobby shop in town. Look for things like pine cones, Christmas themed accents, Frasier firs and decorative snow. With the right set of tools, the possibilities are endless. Here are some ideas to create wholesome favors to thank your invitees and wedding party for attending.

COFFEE MUGS

Making personalized coffee mugs is simple. The only materials you require are a plain cup and a variety of oil-based Sharpie paint markers. Make sure to invest in this style, as standard markers can easily chip after regular use.

Customize the mug with your wedding date, the recipient's name, a short phrase that celebrates your friendship or a design. It's beneficial to practice your penmanship



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on a piece of paper first to become accustomed to the paint marker's flow. After you are satisfied, allow the cup to dry overnight, before drawing over your design again.

After allowing it again to dry, bake it in the oven for 30 minutes at 350 degrees. You can avoid cracks by placing it

in the oven before turning it on and leaving it inside until it's completely cooled.

CHRISTMAS TREE SEEDLING

For this one, you may need extra time for planning and a green thumb. Work with your local nursery to find

Christmas tree seedlings or transfers so guests can grow them in their backyard. Make sure to ask a professional which type of greenery will thrive in your zone. Some may encourage you to prepare the seeds in a pot or a greenhouse setting.

Make sure you begin the

process in time so the sprig can grow to an impressive length before giving it as a wedding favor. Create custom packaging with your event's moniker, the date and your names. Once the tree is transplanted, it will serve as a year-long reminder of the special day.

Winter Beauty Tips

Your wedding day can be a significant investment and one where you expect everything to go right. Consider the expense you paid for a photographer, a professional makeup artist and an expert hairstylist.

These industry specialists understand the risks of winter weather and how to protect your skin and hairdo from the elements.

However, if you plan to prepare for the event on your own, you should know these winter wedding beauty tips.

PROTECT YOUR HAIR

Especially during winter weddings, the cold temperatures, chilly drizzle or even light snowfall can create havoc on a loose hairstyle. Prepare yourself for the ceremony by paying attention to your hair care routine. The experts at The Knot offer these tips to look your best when saying, I do.

- Invest in more substantial conditioners during colder months.
- Avoid knots by brushing and often detangling, especially before bed.
- Hydrate with a moisturizing shampoo and specialized hair masks.



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- Get a trim before the big day to eliminate split ends and a healthier appearance.

You should also practice your chosen hairstyle before your wedding day comes. Take the time to research different bun methods, curling techniques or straightening tools.

SKIN-CARE MUSTS

Dry skin and rosy cheeks

can be a focal point during a high-definition photo shoot. Do your best to prepare for the wedding by incorporating high-moisturizing skin creams and masks to remove dead cells. You will also want to stick to a balanced diet, and add these healthy foods to your routine, as suggested by the Mayo Clinic.

- Tomatoes, berries and nuts.

- Carrots, apricots and spinach.

- Fish like salmon or mackerel.

- Lentils, beans and peas.

If you tend to experience rosy cheeks during the cold, consider covering your face with full coverage foundation and concealer. Ask your wedding party to check on its performance periodically and apply more makeup as needed.

CHAPPED LIPS

The cold, dry air of winter is famous for causing chapped or cracked lips. Protect yourself from flakiness and discomfort by using a protective lip balm. Apply this protective layer before using the lipstick that ties your dress and makeup scheme together. With these strategies, you can have a first kiss with confidence.

Mistakes to Avoid



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When planning a winter wedding, hosts must consider numerous details to avoid disaster. It's a good idea to be vocal about your views with those who will be standing with you and the essential people that you hope will attend.

One of the most significant risks you face is scheduling the event during hazardous weather conditions. While it may be impossible to check the forecast when the wedding is months or years away, researching the location's seasonal trends can reveal what to expect. Suppose the temperatures are more unpredictable in your area.

In that case, it can be beneficial to arrange for an indoor wedding but prepare for warmer weather with an outdoor backup plan.

DON'T FORGET THE HOLIDAYS

A complication often involved in wedding planning during the winter is scheduling around the holidays. Be courteous when inviting your guests for events like the shower, bachelorette party and the big day. Keep in mind that many families take advantage of the season by having large gatherings to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. To avoid tension in the future, don't take it personally if they opt-out due to prior commitments.

DON'T BOOK SEPARATE LOCATIONS

Try your best to find a venue that works for both the ceremony and a reception hall. Your guests will appreciate that they don't have to venture outdoors in brisk conditions to travel to different locations.

Those with young children may find it especially challenging to haul their passengers across town for another event.

You can also avoid busy holiday

shoppers who may be bogging down traffic on the way to a venue and limit the dangers of driving when extreme weather conditions persist.

BE COURTEOUS WITH EVENT SCHEDULE

The typical wedding is packed with time constraints for pictures, the ceremony and events at the reception. Make sure to allow yourself and guests a cushion in the schedule to accommodate late arrivals and time to set up.

Quotes to Inspire your Vows

The love you feel for your future spouse may be hard to put into words. However, when the time comes for sharing vows at the altar, you should plan to recite your feelings flawlessly.

And like the old mantra says, imitation is the best form of flattery. That's why looking at the words of others can help spark some of your own creative ideas.

If you're having trouble finding your voice when saying how much you appreciate their companionship, use these powerful quotes as inspiration.

“Where there is love there is life.” – *Mahatma Gandhi*

“You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams.” – *Dr. Seuss*

“If I had a flower for every time I thought of you, I could walk through my garden forever.” – *Alfred Tennyson*

“Love is like a beautiful flower which I may not touch, but whose fragrance makes the garden a place of delight just the same.” – *Helen Keller*

“We loved with a love that was more than love.” – *Edgar Allan Poe*



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“What is love? I have met in the streets a very poor young man who was in love. His hat was old, his coat worn, the water passed through his shoes and stars through his soul.” – *Victor Hugo*

“A great marriage is not when the perfect couple comes together. It is when an

imperfect couple learns to enjoy their differences.” – *Dave Meurer*

“There is no remedy for love but to love more.” – *Henry David Thoreau*

“There is no more lovely, friendly and charming relationship, communion or com-

pany than a good marriage.” – *Martin Luther*

“When I saw you, I fell in love, and you smiled because you knew.” – *Arrigo Boito*

“Let there be spaces in your togetherness and let the winds of the heavens dance between you. Love one another

er but make not a bond of love: let it be rather a moving sea between the shores of your souls.” – *Khalil Gibran*

“Love doesn't just sit there, like a stone, it has to be made, like bread; remade all the time, made new.” – *Ursula K. Le Guin*