

The Ultimate Guide to ... Weddings



Countdown to the Big Day

8 months before - Intensive treatments: If you are considering laser hair removal, laser thread vein removal or treatments like micro-dermabrasion, you should look into these as early as possible.

6 months before - Find a great beauty therapist: You should visit your beauty therapist at least six months before the wedding and discuss what your aims are for your skin and nails for your big day. If you look after yourself in the run up to the wedding there will be less that you want to fix as the big day approaches. It's a good idea to start getting your eye brows shaped now in case they need reshaping!!

4 months before - Are you seeing clearly: You can't wear your glasses on your wedding day. You will have to get contact lenses or laser eye surgery. Contact lenses are the cheaper option but they take time to get used to. You will have to wear your lenses often before your wedding day so you don't spend the whole day blinking, which will result in better wedding photos.

2 months before - Be a hen tester: Use your hen night as an opportunity to try out all the tan, make-up, and nails you are considering for your wedding day. You will see what looks best, how you look in photos, how long it lasts and you can see what works and what doesn't.

1 month before - Teeth whitening: A nice smile will set off your face on the day. Your teeth don't have to be extreme makeover white or perfect but you can help them improve by getting a whitening treatment done and maintaining it with a brightening stick. Before you get any tooth whitening treatment done, you should have your teeth cleaned by your dentist.

1 week before - Final Facial: Your final facial before the wedding will leave your face glowing. Keep it up by following a daily regime of cleansing, toning and moisturising with products recommended by your beauty therapist. During this week, pay special attention to your skin so you can tackle any breakouts before they get too bad.

3 Days to go - Eyebrow wax and tint and eyelash tint: It is best to get a tint slightly darker than you want and then give it a day or two to tone down. It is best not to get your tinting done on the same day as your fake tan as this can leave your eyebrows looking orange. Getting your brow waxing a day or two before the wedding also gives time for any redness to calm down. Be sure to get your eyebrows done by your usual therapist so there are no disasters!

2 Days to go - Fake Tan: It's best to get your tan done 2 days before your wedding. You should be exfoliating and moisturising in the days leading to your tan paying attention to bra strap and sock line areas. This will also mean that your tan will

last for the first few days of your honeymoon. If you decide not to go for fake tan, use this evening to buff and moisturise your skin so you have a beautiful glow on the big day.

1 Day to go - Nails: The day before is a great time to have a pedicure and it leaves you less to do on the big day.

The Wedding Day: Besides the obvious manicure and make-up, don't forget to moisturise a lot on the morning of the wedding and sip a glass of water. Make sure to use waterproof mascara and that you bring along makeup to touch up during the day. If you are extremely stressed or busy that morning have your manicure the day before.



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Transportation

Shop around, there are so many limousine companies out there. Prices do vary. Let's say you're the traditional types who just can't bear the thought of speeding off in anything that doesn't come with a mini-bar -- your local limousine service has the souped-up options to roll away in that you're looking for. Test-drive everything from the classic white Rolls-Royce (seats 2) to the stretch SUV (seats 22) to the super-luxe limo-bus (seats dozens). And while we're breaking the rules, who says your getaway vehicle has to be white? A shiny, black limo offers the high-society, I'm-with-the-President look. Many transportation companies offer more than just the wheels and will pull out all the royal stops for you and your groom, what they call the "wedding package." Often you can find the "red-carpet treatment" where the driver literally rolls out a red carpet (that's right!) to the door. You can also request that your favorite romantic comedy or your make-out CD be cued up in the car's entertainment center. And many companies will stock the vehicle with chilled champagne.

A horse-drawn carriage has become the option of those brides looking for an all-out Cinderella experience you can't decide between the stretch Hummer and little green Beetle, choose one for the way to the wedding and one for the way to the reception. Don't think that you have to get the same type of car for everyone in the wedding party -- maybe indulge your attendants in some 4-wheel-drive action. While you're maxing and relaxing in all-out style, let your guests in on some of the transportation fun. A luxury bus (seats 50-75) has become a popular -- not to mention a super-safe -- way to transport family and friends (no drinking-an-driving worries, no guests lost between the ceremony and reception). And what's a wedding vehicle without a sign? Equip your party bus with an announcement along both sides: "We just watched Jen & Andy tie the knot!"



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MAKE-UP FOR YOUR BIG DAY . . .

The key to perfect make-up is finding the balance. Your make up must be camera friendly - not too dramatic and definitely not pale and uninteresting. If you do decide to do it yourself, follow these tips to enhance your own beauty...

IT'S ALL IN THE APPLICATION: Choose a foundation that matches your own skin tone, otherwise your face will acquire the look of a mask on the photographs. Blend using your fingertips or a damp sponge, preferably in natural light and please, avoid that dreaded tidemark!

MAKING EYES AT YOU: Softly outline your eyes using a brown kohl pencil. Blend your chosen eye colours into your own natural eye shape. Remember, you are enhancing your own features, not trying to create new ones. The eyebrows frame your face, so ensure they are well shaped and symmetrical. If necessary use a light brown pencil to further enhance them.

LUSCIOUS LIPS: Exfoliate your lips first with a toothbrush. Moisturise and then allow some time for it to be absorbed. Apply lipstick with a lip brush, blot, and then apply lip liner in a similar shade all over the lips. This helps "set" the lipstick so that you won't be left with that tell tale outline. Dot a little lip-gloss onto the centre of your bottom lip to create a pout effect.

FINISHING TOUCHES: Dust a little translucent powder over the face, and then apply a little blush on the cheekbones and temples to define your bone structure. Remember to take the colour of your dress into account, as you want your make-up to compliment it, not clash with it.

WHEN CHOOSING A MAKE-UP ARTIST, enquire about a trial session before booking so that you are completely happy with how your make-up should look on the day.

If you are going to wear fake tan on the day of the wedding, it is advisable that you have this done for your trial too, as the make-up artist will blend the foundation to your skin tone.

If possible, arrange your hair trial and your make up trial for the same day, so you can see how they look together. Perhaps arrange to have them done before a special night out! Decide whether you want to go to a beauty salon, or have the make-up artist come to your home on the morning of the wedding.

If you want to start a skin care regime, discuss this with your make-up artist and leave plenty of time.

Do not start having facials 2 weeks before the wedding and break out in spots with days to go!

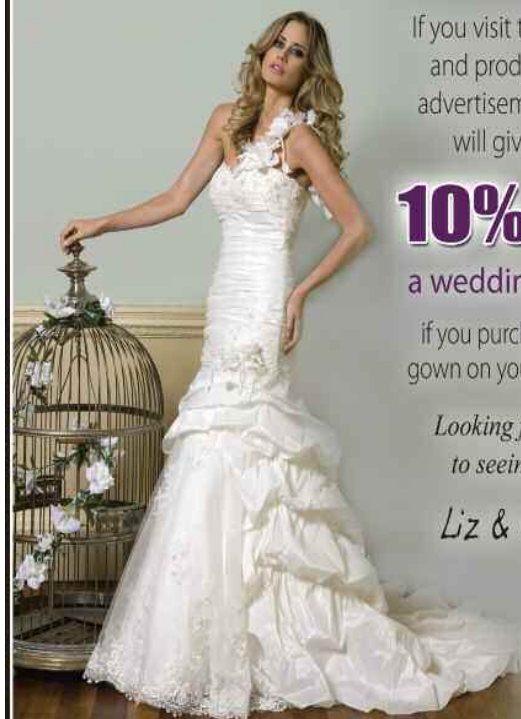
Remember to have extra lipstick, lip gloss, powder and blusher on hand throughout the day to top up your make-up for your photo sessions.

Now all you have to remember is to smile



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Making That Special Wedding Speech

Practice makes perfect, so we suggest writing the speech well in advance and practising when and where you can. This will give you more confidence. Be yourself, be honest - within reason - and enjoy yourself.

THE TRADITIONAL ROUTE TO TAKE IS: A welcome by the bestman or Toastmaster. And in the end everyone toasts everyone else.

A good speech has a good opening and a good closing. Start by introducing yourself. Once you have their attention it would be nice to follow your introduction with something interesting or funny—whatever suits your style. You could tell a story about the couple that not many guests have heard. Please remember to **KEEP IT SHORT** while excluding unnecessary explanations. The best stories are short and straight to the point; **Speak in your normal voice**. Try to become familiar with the place in which you will speak and practice using the microphone if possible. **Write your speech on index cards**. They are less distracting than a piece of paper. Make sure to number the cards. It is never a good idea to speak without any preparation. We've all been at weddings and witnessed that unfortunate moment!




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KENMARE BAY HOTEL



The award-winning Kenmare Bay Hotel & Resort has a great reputation for fabulous food and friendly, efficient service - both vital ingredients for a successful and memorable wedding. The Hotel consistently receives rave reviews and feedback from its Brides & Grooms: "The day itself was magical, the food was amazing - the guests are still raving about it" Commented Martina & Patrick after their August 2011 wedding. "The management & staff at the hotel are outstanding & could not do enough for you. They really make the hotel what it is." Said Suzanne & Anthony following their wedding in June 2011. Daniel O'Hanlon, the Executive Chef, is passionate about food and it shows! If you want to be sure about the quality and presentation of the food on your big day, ask to meet the Head Chef. With Daniel, you'll know immediately that you're in capable hands. In addition to the food and service being top notch, the Hotel features a stunning, first-floor Banqueting Suite which offers fantastic views of the Kerry Mountains. Big enough to accommodate 350 guests comfortably, the Suite can be partitioned so is also perfect for smaller, more intimate weddings. Add to that the 126 bedrooms, 16 holiday homes and 14 luxury lodges plus the fact that the beautiful little town of Kenmare is on the doorstep and you really have the perfect venue and location for your special day.

THE HOTEL HAS RECENTLY LAUNCHED ITS FANTASTIC WINTER WEDDING OFFER:

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- 25% discount on your menu of choice;
- 50% discount on their Banqueting Wines;
- 5 complimentary rooms

This is valid for November 2012 and January & February 2013. See website for full details - www.kenmarebayhotel.com.

A few other 2012 dates are still available, and the following is on offer for all 2012 weddings;

- complimentary sparkling wine & canapés for your guests' arrival
- no surcharge for a choice of starter, main course or the dessert medley;
- 50% discount on Banqueting Wines.

If you are interested in viewing the hotel and having a chat about your wedding, give Sue a call to arrange an appointment. You are very welcome at the Kenmare Bay Hotel & Resort.

The Hotel is a licensed venue for Civil Ceremonies and offers a 20% discount on mid-week weddings.

Call Sue on 064 66 79333 or e mail sue@kenmarebayhotel.com
www.kenmarebayhotel.com

Honeymoon Destinations

1. Book through a travel agent
2. Make sure to tell the travel agent that it's a honeymoon as some places offer upgrades and offer extras
3. Check if you need visas for travelling to honeymoon destinations.
4. Book everything in your maiden name as you won't have changed your ID yet and it could cause problems

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Not everyone has the time to plan & make all the arrangements for their own wedding. Your job or lifestyle may leave you with little time, or you may be living abroad but are getting married in Ireland. It could be that the thought of arranging it all yourselves is quite daunting. You could be looking for something very special or different but don't know where to start. Well look no further!

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The Music

Music - the language of love - plays a pivotal role in setting the tone for your wedding. In whichever music genre your passion lies, there's no shortage of performers to choose from.

REMEMBER TO:

- Listen to a demo of the band or hear them live first
- Agree a price in writing
- Bands and DJs are typically hired for four hours, but if you think your reception might last longer, consider booking them for five hours. If you spontaneously decide to have them stay longer, you could incur steep overtime fees.
- Some bands will offer you a package deal where the DJ is included in the price and you can save money with this option.
- Sure, you've got your first-dance song settled; and you've always wanted to dance with your dad to "Isn't She Lovely" by Stevie Wonder. But what about other custom tunes of the night? One for the cake-cutting, one for the bouquet toss, one for your exit dance? Have a little fun with it -- playing "Pour Some Sugar on Me" while you slice into your wedding cake will be a sweet treat. Probably more important than your "play" list -- make your DJ or band swear up and down that they will follow it no matter how much cash Aunt Milly is waving.
- If you're using a prerecorded CD for your first-dance song, write down the name of the song and track number for the person in charge of hitting play. Or, better yet, make everyone's life easier and copy the song on a blank CD so there's no mistake. Just bring a back-up CD in case there's a problem with the cue.
- Don't forget to talk to your DJ or bandleader about what he (and/or the group) plans on wearing for your event. Divas in mini skirts may worry your grandma.

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Invitations

Give this precious piece of paper your all. Wedding invitations (besides providing the basic who, where, and when) offer guests a sneak peek at what's to come. Make that vision something truly special to behold. Aim to order your invitations when your wedding guest list is final (about three to four months before)

Follow this game plan: Dream up your design concept about seven or eight months before, start to scout out stationers at the six-month mark, and nail down specifics during all subsequent visits.

Don't order the exact number of invites you'll need -- get twenty or thirty extra. Or a better rule of thumb: get 25-percent extra. It's better to have leftovers than to have to reorder more later, which can get pricey.

Also order extra envelopes to leave room for addressing errors.

Note that you'll send one invitation per household (not per guest), but a child over eighteen living at home gets his or her own.

Think of your invitation as a tote-it-with-you tool for guests. So you'll want to provide them with the information they'll need. Translation: names of wedding hosts/sponsors (usually parents), names of bride and groom, day of the week, date, time, address of the ceremony and/or reception, and RSVP info (unless you're including response cards)

It is customary in a formal wedding invitation to spell out everything, including the date and time of the wedding. For example, the invite should read Five o'clock in the evening not 5:00 p.m.

Prices depend on the kind of invites you choose, where you order them, the ink, the typeface, the printing process, and, of course, how many you need.

Keep in mind that the thank-you note project begins way back when you gather your guests' names and addresses to send the invitations.

Do yourself a big favor: Save that list! When you start opening presents, record each gift next to the giver's name and address. You're sure to please the etiquette queens.

Ready to send? If you're having a destination wedding or marrying over the holidays, send out invites early (10 to 12 weeks before the wedding). For local affairs, the standard time frame is six to eight weeks before.

If someone hasn't responded to your invitation, 1 week past the "Reply by" date, call him or her and confirm over the phone.

Send your parents and wedding party invitations, as a keepsake. They don't have to reply.

You have to put return postage on your RSVP's.

Wedding Cake

1. Decide on the size of the cake. This may depend on the number of guests. Will there be tiers?

2. What flavor cake you want? Depending on the style of the cake you can have different kinds of cake. Each tier can be different.

3. What kind of icing? Some of the icing may be coloured to tie in with the wedding theme.

4. Shop around. Look at photographic samples. Taste the cakes.

5. Order 4 - 6 months in advance.



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Wedding Photography

The wedding album is traditionally the most treasured of the post wedding memorabilia. You should entrust this responsibility to a professional. Book early, the best are reserved first.

HERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK:

- What packages are on offer?
- How many photos does each package include?
- Are you allowed to keep the "proofs"?
- Is there a deposit - How much?
- Can you buy the negatives?
- What is the cost for extra time or photos?

Keep in mind that most photographers have their own style, so make sure you see plenty of examples before finalising your decision.

Having a pre-wedding photo shoot can improve your wedding pictures more than anything else you might do.

When ordering flowers for the wedding, be sure to order an extra single rose, boutonniere, ribbon or other inexpensive items that the photographer can use in your photos.

Don't forget to have a copy of your wedding invitation that he can incorporate into the detail shots of your big day.

Photos of wedding rings with flowers, invitation, maybe even your shoes and garter can really add to your album.

Get some cheap blank cd's - put 1-2 in envelopes on each table with your address and a stamp on the envelope - ask your guests to take the cd home, put the pics from their digital cameras onto the cd and pop them in the post back to you.



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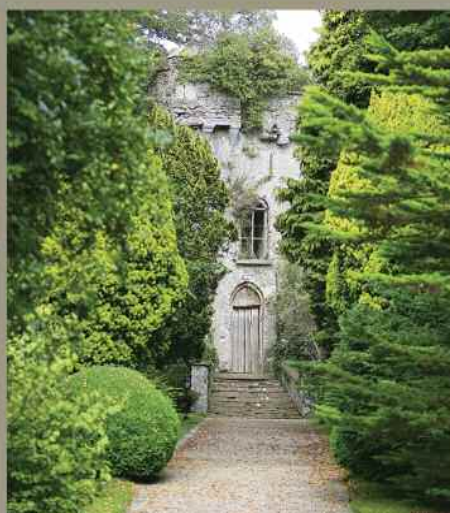


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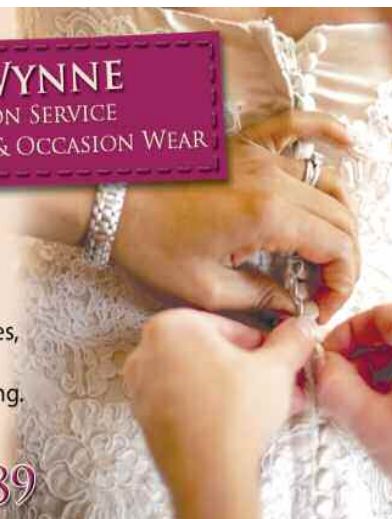
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Florists

Shop around - price ranges are staggering...See examples of previous work (especially in progress). Talk to people who have used the service. Know exactly the type of arrangement you are after. Check regularly with progress. It's better to go with tried and tested florists. It is usually more advisable to opt for a florist who specialises in weddings, who has experience in delivery and arrangement. As prices can fluctuate dramatically, ensure that if you agree a price with the florist, get it in writing. There's no chance a promise will be remembered ten or eleven months later. A traditional foliage to use at weddings is ivy. This works well in bouquets, arrangements and boutonnières (buttonholes). Where you should consider flowers, Top table arrangements, Wedding table centerpieces, Wedding Cake Flowers, Room decoration and pedestal arrangements. Be sure to inquire if your florist has done weddings at your ceremony and/or reception sites before. If so, he or she may have pictures of arrangements done at your site and will be knowledgeable about what sizes, shapes, and colors work in the space. If not, he or she should be willing to scope out the space and familiarize him or herself with any limitations. At the very least, bring along some sort of photo (a press kit or pamphlet) in case she or he has never worked a wedding there before, so that you're starting with an idea of the space. Timing is everything, especially when it comes to buying red roses. Marrying around Valentine's Day? Expect a significant increase in the price of a single stem. Labor costs make florist bills bloom. Trim them by opting for less labor-intensive arrangements like simple centerpieces instead of wild topiaries when picking a palette, make sure the flowers will suit your wedding style and colors. Bring a bridesmaid dress fabric swatch with you when you meet your floral designer so she has a good starting point. Consider the season in which you are marrying when deciding on which flowers you want in your arrangements. Marrying in summer or in a humid climate? Go for hardy flowers that won't wilt, such as sunflowers, zinnias, dahlias, lilies, and hydrangeas.

Remember: size matters! Be sure your bouquets aren't too heavy or too hard to carry. And don't choose the bridal and attendants' bouquets without regard to style of dress or body shape. A delicate nosegay will get lost against an elaborate ruffled dress, for example, and a small bride will be overshadowed by a massive cascading arrangement. Be sure your bouquet isn't too fragrant -- you don't want to be sneezing down the aisle! Be sure to coordinate the delivery time of your bouquets, corsages, and boutonnières with your photographer's arrival -- you'll want them to be worn or held in formal pictures. Have your flowers delivered boxed with cellophane and well misted -- that way they'll look fresh through your ceremony and reception. Check out each bouquet and remove any damaged blossoms. And don't leave them in the sun's path -- direct sunlight will speed up the wilting process. If you're keeping bouquets in vases of water to maintain freshness before the ceremony, don't forget to dry the stems thoroughly before handing them out to the girls. You don't want big water stains on the front of all the dresses moments before they take the aisle. These days, florists are actually more like event designers. You may be able to get decorations like balloons, streamers, lanterns, and chairs from your florist. Dealing with one vendor rather than four or five may alleviate some stress.