

PLACID PLANNING



GETTING READY FOR YOUR WEDDING NEED NOT BE STRESSFUL; FIND OUT HOW THE PROS STAY CALM AND ORGANIZED.

BY KAYTIE DOWLING • PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM GRAHAM

ON THE BEST DAYS, PLANNING YOUR WEDDING CAN BE INCREDIBLY REWARDING. BUT ON THE WORST DAYS, IT CAN BE CHAOTIC, TRYING—NIGHTMARISH, EVEN. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY. STAYING FOCUSED, ORGANIZED AND CALM CAN HELP SLAY YOUR INNER BRIDEZILLA. THESE LOCAL EVENT PLANNERS DEAL WITH STRESS AND MANAGE TO PUT TOGETHER BEAUTIFUL WEDDINGS EVERY DAY. STEAL THEIR SECRETS.

Barrow ideas from the best to preserve your sanity.



- CREATE A DETAILED TIMELINE FOR YOUR WEDDING DAY
- ANTICIPATE ANY PROBLEMS AND HAVE BACKUP PLANS
- CREATE A CONTACT LIST OF ALL VENDORS AND IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN YOUR WEDDING
- KEEP ORGANIZED INFORMATION WITH YOU ALWAYS TO USE DOWN TIME WISELY
- PREPARE AN EMERGENCY BAG TO PREVENT ANY CRISIS
- DELEGATE A CONTACT PERSON FOR PANICKED GUESTS OR VENDORS

CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT: a time line. The duo calls their 20-page behemoth their Bible. It can require hours to put together, but it keeps everyone—including bridesmaids, vendors and family—on time. “It makes everything a lot smoother on the actual day,” Kieffer says. “It helps keep us on track.” Don’t be afraid to make your own. It should include everything from what time hair and makeup should start, to when you walk down the aisle, to when to cut the cake. And be sure to include a little bit of Just In Case time. It seems like no event goes according to schedule all the time, and if yours doesn’t, you’ll have room for error—just in case. After you organize everything, make sure your vendors have a copy. One of the most important people to give the time line to is your disc jockey or band leader. Since this person serves as a master of ceremonies, he or she needs to know when everything should happen.

STAYS CALM BY: having fun. The two, who have been friends since childhood, blow off steam every year with an annual New York city shopping trip. Be sure to make your own time to relax, or else you’ll wind up too anxious to have fun on your big day. Don’t feel bad about taking time to relax. Get a massage. Go out with your bridesmaids. Have a drink with your fiancé. Whatever you do, have fun.



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Make My Day Event Planning
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