

- 13.) Limit an open bar to beer, wine and one specific cocktail. You'll save a good \$10 to \$15 per person on your bar bill.
- 14.) Substitute sparkling wine for champagne. No one will know the difference.
- 15.) Eliminate the champagne toast altogether. Half of your guests won't touch it, and many will take a sip just because it's there. You'll end up paying for a ton of alcohol that people don't drink.
- 16.) Share your wedding invitations through email and save a small fortune on paper, printing and stamps.
- 17.) Create your own wedding invitations with desktop publishing software. On average, 100 engraved wedding invitations cost \$500. With a box of elegant stationery, you could get the same job done for under \$50.
- 18.) Shop the dollar palace for centerpieces. Plain glass candleholders can be trimmed with ribbon, filled with candy or adorned with tiny flowers.
- 19.) Use small potted plants for centerpieces. They make wonderful take home gifts for guests!
- 20.) Instead of centerpieces loaded with expensive blooms, try petite bud vases. Each vase can hold a single elegant flower.
- 21.) Buy traditional sheet cakes from the grocery store and decorate with strawberries and fresh flowers.
- 22.) Schedule your wedding on a Sunday. Reception halls cut their rates astronomically for Sunday events.
- 23.) Replace your credit card with one that earns you miles. As you shop, you'll be earning points toward your honeymoon trip. Compare mileage accrual programs at airlinecreditcards.com.
- 24.) Consider having your vows administered by a trusted relative or friend. Universal Life Church (ulchq.com) and Esoteric Interfaith Church (northernway.org) are two organizations that "ordain" lay people so they can officiate weddings.
- 25.) Investigate local pawn shops for engagement rings. In most cases, it's almost impossible to tell a new ring from a used one.