

# VEGAN WEDDING PLANNING WORKBOOK



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# PART ONE



MAGICAL WEDDING CONTRACT

Marriage is about loving each other. Weddings are manifestation of that love. Thus as long as the love is there your wedding will be perfect, even if it's raining on your wedding day. With that thought in mind before you begin the journey of planning your wedding take a few minutes to fill out a contract to yourself.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, love \_\_\_\_\_ because

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With the knowledge that **our love is so strong I know that my wedding will be a magical and splendid occasion\***. Every event in our planning, during our wedding and reception will create wonderful memories and stories for us to share in our many anniversaries to come.

Love, \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please use this sentence as an affirmation during your wedding planning process.

I LOVE YOU GAME

Now for a little fun. I call this the I <3 you game. You and your fiancé both get a copy. You get 5 to 8 minutes to fill it out. Switch papers or read them aloud.

Things I love about you:

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Qualities I admire:

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Best feature:

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Funniest moment together:

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Book we both read: \_\_\_\_\_

Movie we both love and why:

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Song with both sing along with:

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Our favorite place and why:

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Write two of your own fun questions for your fiancé:

## WEDDING WORRY BOX

Time for a little creativity and using all your DIY skills.

You will create your wedding worry box. It can be as fancy or as minimalistic as you want. You can decorate it or just write “wedding worry box” on a shoe box. I also recommend you keep a pen and pad of note pads by it.

A worry box, is a box where you are going to put all your wedding planning worries in. Anytime you have a worry concerning your wedding, it doesn't matter how big or small, you just write on the paper, fold it and place it inside your worry box. If you feel up to it take a breath and say, “thank you worry box for helping me clear this worry”.

It may sound goofy but the act of writing down a worry helps you to confront it. It helps stop your mind from looping. Give it a try!





## PART TWO

## WHAT'S IMPORTANT

Before we create your wedding budget I want you to get a clear picture of your priorities. Number these items in order of importance, 1 being the most important.

- Food
- Drinks
- Cake
- Venue
- Number of Guests
- Decorations
- Wedding Favors
- Rings
- Wedding Apparel
- Stationary
- Photography
- Music
- Transportation
- Honeymoon

Now you can allocate funds according to those items that are the most important.

## BUDGET

Now let's get down and dirty with numbers. A major stress causing factor in wedding planning is money. That's why a wedding budget is so important. It helps you break down the cost.

Fill it in to the best of your knowledge, you can estimate expenses

| <b>Contributions</b>       | <b>Estimated</b> | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Notes</b> |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| You                        |                  |               |              |
| Your Fiancé                |                  |               |              |
| Your Parents               |                  |               |              |
| Your Fiancé's Parents      |                  |               |              |
| Other:                     |                  |               |              |
| Other:                     |                  |               |              |
| <b>Total Contributions</b> |                  |               |              |

| <b>Attire Expenses</b> | <b>Estimated</b> | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Notes</b> |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Wedding Dress          |                  |               |              |
| Tuxedo                 |                  |               |              |
| Shoes                  |                  |               |              |
| Accessories            |                  |               |              |
| Hair/Makeup            |                  |               |              |
| Other                  |                  |               |              |
| Other                  |                  |               |              |
| <b>Total</b>           |                  |               |              |

| <b>Ceremony Expenses</b> | <b>Estimated</b> | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Notes</b> |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Location fee             |                  |               |              |
| Officiant fee            |                  |               |              |
| Marriage license         |                  |               |              |
| Rings                    |                  |               |              |
| Flowers/decorations      |                  |               |              |
| Other                    |                  |               |              |
| Other                    |                  |               |              |
| <b>Total</b>             |                  |               |              |

| <b>Stationary Expenses</b> | <b>Estimated</b> | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Notes</b> |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Save the date cards        |                  |               |              |
| Invitations                |                  |               |              |
| Thank you cards            |                  |               |              |
| Other                      |                  |               |              |
| Other                      |                  |               |              |
| <b>Total</b>               |                  |               |              |

| <b>Photography Expenses</b> | <b>Estimated</b> | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Notes</b> |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Photographer                |                  |               |              |
| Videographer                |                  |               |              |
| Albums                      |                  |               |              |
| Extra prints                |                  |               |              |
| Digital copies              |                  |               |              |
| Disposable cameras          |                  |               |              |
| Other                       |                  |               |              |
| Other                       |                  |               |              |
| <b>Total</b>                |                  |               |              |

| <b>Reception Expenses</b>      | <b>Estimated</b> | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Notes</b> |
|--------------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Location fee                   |                  |               |              |
| Rentals (tables, chairs, etc.) |                  |               |              |
| Caterer/Food                   |                  |               |              |
| Drinks                         |                  |               |              |
| Cake                           |                  |               |              |
| Music                          |                  |               |              |
| Decorations                    |                  |               |              |
| Staff (including tips)         |                  |               |              |
| Wedding Favors                 |                  |               |              |
| Other                          |                  |               |              |
| Other                          |                  |               |              |
| <b>Total</b>                   |                  |               |              |

| Miscellaneous Expenses | Estimated | Actual | Notes |
|------------------------|-----------|--------|-------|
| Transportation         |           |        |       |
| Gifts                  |           |        |       |
| Wedding coordinator    |           |        |       |
| Rehearsal dinner       |           |        |       |
| Other                  |           |        |       |
| Other                  |           |        |       |
| Other                  |           |        |       |
| Other                  |           |        |       |
| Other                  |           |        |       |
| Other                  |           |        |       |
| <b>Total</b>           |           |        |       |

| <b>Bottom Line</b>      |
|-------------------------|
| Total Contributions     |
| Total Expenses (minus)  |
| Budget Surplus/Shortage |
|                         |
|                         |

## THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY GUEST LIST

Who you invite is completely up to you and your fiancé. But I recommend you invite people you want to come. Have guests who you know will bring happiness and laughter to your wedding.

Divide your guest list into these categories. If you need to cut people from your list this should make it easier.

**Happy**

**Neutral**

**Downers**

**Critics**

FOOD AND DRINKS

List the food you and your fiancé love:

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List the food you and your fiancé despise (or don't like):

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List any food allergies you have:

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Favorite restaurant: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite dish at restaurant: \_\_\_\_\_



Write your ideal menu:

Appetizers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Salads: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Soups: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Entrees:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sides:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Desserts:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Drinks

Is there a drink you love? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a brand that you need to have? \_\_\_\_\_

What flavors do you like in your drinks? \_\_\_\_\_

All these lists and menu ideas should help your caterer create the perfect menu for you. Also let your caterer know if anyone in your party has a food allergy so that they can make them something special.

## VENUE

There are so many venues deciding on one might be hard. I recommend that before you even search for venues you create a vision board of the place you want your wedding and reception to take place.

Here are a few questions to help you get started:

Do you want to be surrounded by nature?

Would you prefer the energy of the city?

Do you want an intimate and cozy place?

Would you like a large elegant place?

Do you want a place with easy access?

Would you like a remote place?

What features are important?

Do you want in house catering or your own caterer?

Will you have the ceremony and reception in the same location?

Vision Board:

# Wedding Calendar Checklist

*The following checklist is designed with the (ideal) timetable of twelve months. If you're planning your wedding on a shorter schedule, just start at the beginning of the list and try to catch up as quickly as possible. Use the boxes to the left of the items to check things off as you complete them.*

## 9 TO 12 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING DAY

- Plan a date night with your fiancé and fill in our why, the magical wedding contract, and play I love you game.
- Arrange a gathering for you and your parents.
- Create Wedding Worry Box
- Determine budget and how expenses will be shared.
- Discuss the size, style, location, and scope of the wedding you want.
- Choose a target wedding date and time. (The actual date will depend on venue availability.)
- Create Wedding Venue Vision Board
- Create a binder to store and organize your ideas, worksheets, receipts, brochures, etc.
- Visit and reserve wedding and reception sites.
- Meet with your officiant.
- Start compiling your guest list to estimate head count. Consider budget when thinking about “must-invites” versus “nice-to-invites.”
- Run guest list through the good, the bad and the ugly categories.
- Begin shopping for the wedding gown.

## 6 TO 9 MONTHS PRIOR

- Choose the members of your wedding party.
- Enroll in wedding/shower gift registries.
- Hire a photographer and a videographer.
- Book an engagement photo session, especially if you plan to include a professional engagement picture with Save-the-Date cards.
- Hire a caterer.
- Hire a florist.
- Make arrangements for music to be played at the ceremony and reception. (Tasks might include booking a band or solo musician, hiring a DJ, choosing significant musical selections, and so on.)
- Reserve a block of hotel rooms for out-of-town guests. (Ask about group rates.)
- Send out Save-the-Date cards. (Include lodging information and maps, etc.)
- Shop for wedding rings.
  
- Select and order wedding gown, leaving ample time for delivery and alterations.
- Shop for bridesmaids' dresses.
- Schedule wedding cake design appointments and tastings.
- Start planning your honeymoon.

## 4 TO 6 MONTHS PRIOR

- Finalize the guest list.
- Order invitations (25 extra) and other wedding stationery (i.e., place cards and thank you notes).
- Plan wedding-day beauty preparations; ask your stylist how far in advance they book wedding parties, and whether they are willing to work on the wedding site.

- Finalize all honeymoon plans. If traveling outside the country, arrange for visas, passports and inoculations.
- Hire your wedding day transportation (carriage, limousine service, etc.).
- Plan the rehearsal dinner.

## 2 TO 4 MONTHS PRIOR

- Obtain a marriage license. Bring all necessary documents.
- Order tuxedos for the groom and groomsmen.
- Meet with the caterer to go over menus, wine selections, etc.
- Order the wedding cake.
- Order your wedding rings.
- Confirm wedding ceremony and reception music.
- Book a hotel room for the wedding night.
- If you plan to write your own vows, start writing them now.

## 4 TO 8 WEEKS PRIOR

- Mail the wedding invitations 8 weeks before your wedding date.
- Do a hair and makeup run-through (including wedding veil, if applicable).
- Confirm all transportation plans.

## 2 TO 4 WEEKS PRIOR

- Work on seating arrangements for the reception.
- Finalize arrangements for out of town attendants and guests.
- Confirm details with the photographer, florist, and other vendors.

- Have final fitting for bridal gown and bridesmaids' dresses.
- Write your rehearsal dinner toast.
- Purchase gifts for the wedding attendants.
- Compile a list of all of the wedding vendors and wedding party, with contact information. Carry this list with you everywhere you go (just in case).
- Communicate rehearsal dinner details to those who will attend the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner.
- Look into where bride, groom and attendants will dress for the ceremony.

#### 1 WEEK PRIOR

- Enclose any fees due on the wedding day in envelopes for easy distribution.
- Give the caterer a final head count.
- Appoint a person to bring important items (cake knife, toasting glasses, etc.) to the reception.
- Appoint someone to act as an "organizer" to handle any last-minute problems.
- Review final details for those in the wedding party.
- Get final beauty treatments (manicure, facial, mas-sage, waxing, brow shaping, etc.)

#### THE DAY BEFORE THE WEDDING

- Gather together the following:
  - something old (symbolizing continuity with family and heritage).
  - something new (symbolizing optimism and hope for the new life ahead).
  - something borrowed (an item from a happily married friend)
  - something blue (symbolizing love and fidelity).

- Confirm honeymoon arrangements.
- Pack for the honeymoon.
- Enjoy a relaxing day with family and friends.
- Attend the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner; give gifts to attendants.
- Give the rings, and officiant's fee, to the best man.
- Try to get some rest.

## WEDDING DAY

- Post wedding announcements in the mail.
- Relax and remain calm.
- Repeat affirmation: **our love is so strong I know that my wedding will be a magical and splendid occasion!!!**
- Remember to eat something.
- Allow at least two hours for getting dressed.
- ENJOY YOUR MAGICAL WEDDING!