

NO SURPRISES

Wedding surprises are great- except for when they're not. Unexpected expenses can cause major stress for you and your H2PB (Husband To Probably Be...unless you run out of money before the wedding). Here's our naughty list of budget busting culprits to watch out for

MAKEUP TRIALS Many brides forget that the cost of their makeup artist doesn't include your makeup trial. Keep in mind that every little add-on ups the budget. We know how easy it is to get carried away with the pampering.

HEN PARTY Allow a generous amount of spending money here. After all, when does a night out ever come in under budget?!

THE LEGALITIES Marriage licence costs, celebrants fees and pre-wedding course needs will vary depending on the type of wedding you're having of course, but for those marrying in a church, you could be looking at a figure in excess of €1,000 for use of the church and priest's services alone. Not to mention the expected €50 tip per alter server. Pre-wedding courses are also an expensive requirement for those marrying in a Catholic church and will set you back a neat €250.

'DAY-OF STATIONERY Try not to blow your whole stationery budget on invitations. Remember, you might also want to have place cards, menus, order of service booklets and a seating plan. Make a list.

EVERYTHING BUT THE DRESS Remember to leave room in your fashion budget for extras such as accessories, jewellery, shoes, shapewear and lingerie.

PA SYSTEM Make sure your DJ has their own PA and if not, factor in that you may need to pay to rent your band's equipment for the DJ's set.

VENDOR OVERTIME Discuss an overtime policy with your vendors and make sure it's all detailed in a written contract. You might think your band is only too happy to belt out Sweet Caroline again 40 minutes after they were due to finish, but Sweet Caroline costs money.





BRIDAL PARTY GIFTS The traditional gift for your bridesmaids can be something you forget to budget for. Decide in advance if you'd like to present gifts to your family also.

PRE-WEDDING OUTFIT You'll need something to wear for the dinners, drinks and rehearsals you'll be going to in the days leading up to the wedding when your out-of-town guests arrive.

POSTAGE Maths time! 200 invites + 200 Thank You cards at 60 cent a stamp = €240.

MEALS FOR VENDORS It's polite to arrange extra food for vendors like your photographer, who will more than likely be there all day and need to eat.

DRY-CLEANING YOUR GOWN The world cleaning probably isn't something you thought you'd have to think about when planning, and for most brides, it doesn't feature in their budget. But at €150 plus, it probably should.

DECOR No matter how much DIY-ing and flea-marketing you plan to do, decorating your

venue will set you back a certain amount. Make a budget and stick to it.

GRATUITY It may hurt a little to pay more after you've already shelled out a fortune on your

venue, but remember, it was catering staff who worked hard to make your day run smoothly. Show some appreciation. Financial appreciation is their favourite.

'OTHER' You might want to sit down for this last one. It's often wise to expect to need up to 10% more than you actually think. What more could you possibly have forgotten to include, you ask? 'Other' covers that last-minute dentist trip a week before your wedding and petrol money for the drive to Dublin to pick up your change-of-mind veil. Oh and having your pearl necklace restrung after it snaps the day before the wedding. And did we mention that extra place setting you have to squeeze in after World War 3 breaks out between you and your uninvited cousins? And when the friend who offered to do your makeup gets sick the night before your wedding and you have to unexpectedly pay for it to be done by someone else? You get the picture. The inclusion of 'other' in your budget could save you a panic attack. ♥

