



The So Raise Your Glasses Guide To Working Out Your Wedding Decorations Budget

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Your wedding reception is so important but there are so many wedding decorations available on the market it is often difficult to work out how much it will all cost. There are decorations available to suit all budgets and we have produced this guide to help you decide which sort of decorations to have and how to work out the cost.

First of all you need to split your wedding decorations into table decorations and room decorations. You may feel that you only want table decorations as the natural surroundings eliminate the need for any additional room decorations. If your wedding reception venue is in a plain room with no character of its own you may want to add additional decorations to create your own atmosphere.

Here is a table with a chart of the most popular decorations, alternatives to each, where you can source them and quantities you need. This will enable you to budget for each item and to calculate the total cost.

Wedding Table Decorations

Essential Tableware Items	Use	Alternatives	Where To Source	How Many
Tablecloths	To Cover Tables For Uniformity and Formality.	Paper or Linen. Banquet rolls are economical	Purchase, hire or the venue may provide these	Measure your tables, allow 19 - 24 inches drop on each side and source cloths or banquet rolls to fit - usually one tablecloth per table is sufficient.
Table Runners	To create a striking colour coordinated look	Paper, organza or linen	Purchase	Again measure the tables and source a length to fit - you can use table runners on the tops of each table only or allow them to drape up to 12 inches over the ends



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Napkins	These are essential for each guest during the meal	Paper or Linen	Purchase, hire or the venue may provide these. For a formal sit down meal use dinner size napkins, luncheon size for a less formal meal. Beverage or cocktail napkins are ideal with the cake.	Allow 1 per guest plus 5% to allow for wastage.
Cutlery	Essential for each guest	Metal or disposable plastic	Re-useable items are often supplied by the venue or can be hired. Disposable items can be purchased from an online wedding decorations retailer	You need enough for each guest and course - if you have three courses plus bread and butter allow cutlery for each course.
Glasses	Essential for each guest	Glass or disposable plastic	Reuseable items are often supplied by the venue or can be hired. Disposable items can be purchased online.	If you are serving wine and champagne provide one glass for each drink, some may prefer to add an alternative glass for red and white wine so this totals three glasses per guest. You may wish to offer water so provide a tumbler for each guest if you do.



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Plates and Bowls	Essential for each guest	Standard reuseable crockery or disposable	Reuseable items are often supplied by the venue or can be hired. Disposable items can be purchased online	Allow 1 per guest per course plus 5% to allow for breakages.
Basic Decorations	Use	Alternatives	Where To Source	How Many
Table Centrepieces	To provide a focal point. Balloon centrepieces add height and are perfect in a featureless room.	Flowers, balloons, cake stands, bird cages.	Local florist or balloon decorator. You may be able to hire cake stands and bird cages or you can buy good quality card alternatives on line.	One per round or square table. Long top or buffet tables usually require two.
Place Cards	To assist guests in finding their seat and they eliminate a free for all	Standard blank card tent cards or glass place cards. Chalk boards, tags. You can also source printed place cards	On line, a stationery printer or make your own	One per person plus 5% to allow for errors and changes
Table Plan	To help guests to find their table	These can be printed at a stationer or you can make your own	On line or a stationery printer	One
Table Numbers and Holders	These are a visible means of allowing guests to quickly locate their table	Standard holders with a number, tent cards and chalk boards. You can place the number in your table centrepiece.	On line or, again, make your own	One per table.



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The Extras	Use	Alternatives	Where To Source	How Many
Table Scatter	To add colour and texture to the table	Metallic table confetti, paper or satin rose petals, real rose petals and table crystals	On line or a local florist	A standard bag of table confetti contains sufficient for around three tables or twenty guests. Table crystals vary according to their size but allow around ten crystals per guest.
Favours	A little thank you and keepsake for your guests	Almonds or dragees in a favour box or bag, lottery tickets, crackers or small gifts appropriate to your wedding theme. These are not obligatory and some brides do not provide favours.	On line is the main source	One gift per guest. The tradition for standard size almonds or dragees is five per guest.
Ice Breakers	These discussion cards allow the table to get to know each other and are also great time fillers between courses	There are many themed cards available and you can create your own	Many titles are available on line	These are generally sold in boxes of sixty questions. Allow one box per table.
Disposable Cameras	Allow guests to snap moments as they happen	A guest on each table to be asked to use a digital camera	Many designs are available on line	One or two per table or one for every six guests



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<u>Wedding Room Decorations</u>				
	Use	Alternatives	Where To Source	How Many
Flowers	To decorate and create focal points for example a hearth or mantelpiece, the venue entrance or window sill	Real flowers, dried or fabric flowers.	Your local florist	This depends on your total budget, the room you wish to dress and the areas available
Balloons	To create focal points and to create the celebration atmosphere. A balloon arch behind the top table or cake table. The corners of the dance floor, the entrance and the corners of the room.	Helium filled balloon arches and groups of five or seven balloons around the room. Balloon drops over the dance floor in a net, air filled balloons tied to pillars.	You can source the balloons on line and arrange for a friend to helium fill them on the morning of the Wedding or use a professional balloon company.	This depends on the areas you need to fill. Allow for five or seven balloons on a weight in corners, the edge of the dance floor, the entrance and other areas you need to fill
Swags	Swags are ideal where a room has a plain ceiling and walls and you want to create that romantic feel	Organza or lace rolls - twist the fabric and attach to pillars or pin to the wall; bunting in coordinating colours for a vintage style look.	Organza and lace rolls are available on line. Bunting is available on line in many colours or you can make your own.	Measure the areas to be filled and add a third to allow for the twisting and draping of the fabric or bunting.
Banners	To create a personal message for the Happy Colour	Personalised Banners or pre-printed good luck banners	On line. So Raise Your Glasses prints personalised banners the same day.	This depends on the wall space available.