

## *Details: 26 Simple Ideas That Will Transform Your Day*

Some of these may seem trivial or obvious. Be especially certain not to dismiss those, for they often are the very things that make all the difference.

1. Wrap your silverware (even if it's plastic) in a napkin, tied with a ribbon or tulle bow.
2. Create an edible food table centerpiece, the perfect mix of form and function.
3. Use four tables to create an "X" for your food table. With the "X", you can have four food lines. It is amazing how quickly everyone can be served with this method, and it looks incredible!
4. For outdoor weddings, used handicap accessible port-a-pots. Their extra size makes them more pleasant for everyone.
5. Instead of a head table, choose a small, round table exclusively for the bride and groom.
6. Borrow a tradition from another faith or ethnicity.
7. To save money on linen tablecloths, use square linens on round tables. You will still have a nice look, and should save at least 25%.
8. Use floor length linens on the food, cake, and head tables instead of skirting. This looks great and again, saves a ton of money.
9. Pay attention to the little things: measure ribbon on balloons, make sure tablecovers are on straight, and align centerpieces.
10. Allow 8-10' between tables.
11. To plan for food and cake, follow this equation: 60-70% of guests invited will attend- this is your number for food. Only about 50% of those will eat cake. For example, for every 100 people you invite, plan on 60-70 for food and 30-35 for cake.
12. Using the formula above, skip the rsvp cards when you order your invitations. You won't need them.
13. With the money you save from skipping the rsvp cards, have your return address printed on the back flap of your invitations. You'll be glad you did.
14. Mason jars with salt or rice and white tea light candles make great luminaries. Tie a tulle bow around the top for elegance.
15. Add scented soap, hand sanitizer, lotion, and hairspray to the women's restrooms at your reception.

16. Inexpensive balloon weights can be made by wrapping metallic paper around any of the following and tying off with ribbon: tomato paste cans, small soft drink cans, oranges or apples, baggie of rocks, etc.
17. Add a separate piece of paper in your programs listing each member of the wedding party with a quick bio. Information such as your relationship to the person, how long you've known them, a little fun fact about the person, and so on can all make your guests feel a little bit more a part of your special day.
18. Donate your "Dollar Dance" money to a worthy cause of your choice.
19. If you can't choose between 2 or 3 centerpiece ideas- Don't! Use all of them, just place one per table. The colors will unify the look.
20. Be sure the centerpieces do not block your guests view, which will hinder conversation.
21. Don't stress if all your colors don't match exactly. It is very difficult, if not impossible to find everything in the same shade. As long as they are close, it will look great.
22. As discussed earlier, only about 50% of your guests will actually eat cake. Be sure to keep this in mind when ordering and you will save yourself money, and the trouble of eating cake for days or weeks after your wedding.
23. Think beyond the obvious when choosing a color to coordinate with your bridesmaids dresses for flowers, etc. Some great combinations are plum and orange, wine and teal, purple and red. White and ivory also mix well, in addition to gold and silver. Give it a try- you might find a new favorite.
24. Textures are an often overlooked part of decorating. Lace, glass, and iridescent items add elegance.
25. Favors tend to be a waste of money. As a general rule, make it either extremely inexpensive and edible, or fairly inexpensive and sentimental. That way, most people will use it or take it. Some examples are:

A pear with a tag that reads:  
Joe and Sandi- a perfect pair!

Print copies of favorite family recipes of both the bride and groom.

26. To avoid big headaches on set-up day of your reception, use graph paper to layout the room well before the big day. Paper is so much easier to move than tables and chairs are. Be sure to make it to scale.