



## Hidden Costs of Weddings

Your Wedding was epic! Everything was perfect but then suddenly, what is this? Why are you getting a bill from a Vendor or the Venue? You were paid in full already, right? Well unfortunately, there are a TON of hidden costs that couples often fail to dodge. Sometimes you're lucky, and you can prevent these fees well before the Wedding, but often things get overlooked or unobserved and you get slammed with an additional bill. First things first, **READ YOUR CONTRACTS!** Every Vendor has a contract for a reason. It protects all parties involved and gives clear expectations on both ends. I know, I know, contracts are long and boring. But I guarantee you that if you are going to be hit with an after bill, you signed off on it in that contract. **The truth is, hidden fees aren't truly hidden, you just overlooked them.** So what are some often hidden costs? See below!

**General Things To Remember:** **1)** Postage. Stamps add up, include it in your budget, especially if your invite is heavier than the average letter. **2)** The inconvenience Fee. Any Vendor can charge this. This fee covers a variety of inconveniences that the Vendor would not have to deal with in a traditional setting. Example: Vendors often have a ton of items to transport from their vehicle to the Venue, if parking is extremely limited and they have to lug equipment, that equals inconvenience. **3)** Alterations. Alterations and tailoring are not included in any Attire costs. **4)** Overtime and Late Fees. This can come from the Venue, Rental Company, Caterer, Planner and/or Decorator typically. Each Event is given a time allotment. If you go over that, additional staff need to be paid to accommodate and you infringe on the following days event. Or if a Rental Company or Decorator have returned to pick up items that are not ready to be picked up because you've gone overtime, you will need to pay for their wasted time. This fee can be a huge one. **5)** Taxes and Gratuities. Everything is taxed, the final price quoted often leaves out the tax until you get the actual bill. Gratuities such as Vendor tips, should also be planned for. Not all Vendors merit a tip for a simple service but ANY Vendor that proves themselves, exceeds expectations and works with you personally to achieve your goal, should definitely get one. (Often tipped Vendors include: The Planner or Coordinator, The head Caterer, DJ or lead Band member, Decorator and/or Florist, Hair and Makeup artist, Photographer, Videographer, Officiant, Transportation drivers, Delivery staff and any staff member(s) that go above and beyond for you.) **6)** Service Fees. Venues can charge this in addition to your initial price. Make sure to ask if the X price quoted includes all fees. **7)** Cake cutting and Corkage Fees. If you are not using the Venues bar and/or Baker, expect to pay their staff to cut an outsiders cake and open someone else's bottles. **8)** Additional meals. If you've paid your Caterer to prepare for X amount of guests but go over that amount, you can be charged for each additional plate and then some. Be sure to include the Vendors that will be preparing for your day before, during and after the actual Event as well as unexpected guests. **9)** Upgrades. You may have paid for a package that does not include certain things that if you add on, you'll be charged accordingly.

**Outdoor Venues:** **1)** Not all outdoor Venues have bathrooms. You may need to rent mobile ones for your guests. **2)** Climate Control. Cooler temperatures could mean you'll need to use heaters whereas warmer temperatures could mean fans and/or cooling systems. These are often an additional fee and not included in the price of the Venue space. **3)** Generators. Some outdoor Venues depend on Generators. This can be included in the negotiated price, but make sure it is! **4)** Cleanup. This goes for any Venue really. Most Venues include cleanup services in the price, but keep in mind, any type of major spill, vomit, blood or destruction of property will land you with an additional fee. **5)** Rentals. Often with an outdoor Venue, limited options come with it. Which means you may need to rent items such as tents, tables, chairs, lighting and similar. **6)** Permits. Getting married in any public park, beach or similar setting may require a permit, a location fee and sometimes even insurance.

**Indoor Venues:** **1)** Power charges. If your power requirements (DJ, Photobooth, Lighting Installs etc) exceed the Venues capabilities, you'll have to pay for this. **2)** The Bar. Not all Venues include the Bar and Bartender(s). Be sure this is negotiated before signing anything. **3)** External Vendor Fees. This doesn't always apply but so Venues charge you if you choose to go outside of their in-house or preferred Vendor list. **4)** Overtime. Every Venue gives you a time allotment. If you exceed it, you will be charged. Usually this fee is an X amount per additional hour. This includes your guests, so be sure they don't linger. **5)** Cleanup. Most Venues include cleanup services in the price, but keep in mind, any type of major spill, vomit, blood or damaged property will send an additional bill right to you.

**DJ's and Bands:** If your Reception space is extra large and additional speakers and/or microphones are required, you will be charged for this.

**Vendor Trials:** Photography sessions, Floral Mock-ups, Hair and makeup trials and tastings all cost money even if you're promising them future business.