

Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Green

If you have a hybrid car parked in your garage, recycle rain water to irrigate backyard plants and have replaced just about every bulb in your home with compact fluorescents, there's a good chance that you're environmentally conscious.

But what if you've just gotten engaged and want to impart some of these green ways of thinking to

the wedding?

What can you do to be earth-friendly when tying the knot?

Wedding industry insiders say that the trend of going green with weddings is growing exponentially. David Cooperrider, a business professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, says that going green is one of the great

business opportunities of the 21st century, and there is much potential for the wedding industry.

He offers that wedding vendors that are not going green will be at a competitive disadvantage to those who do.

Going green for your wedding day doesn't mean you have to compromise on the elements that will make the day special.

It just means you can take a look at the details and the bigger picture and develop strategies that will minimize the impact on the planet.

* Go local: From food to flowers, choose vendors that use locally grown and raised products.

This reduces the amount of smog generated and fuel consumed to bring items in for your wedding.

Many caterers are now collaborating with local farms and other vendors to offer organic, locally grown menu items. It pays to ask about availability.

* Go to your guests: Figure out where the greatest number of your guests reside and then hold the wedding nearby.

For example, a couple from the

Northeast who has relocated to the West coast, but has all of their family still in the east, may want to hold their wedding in the east.

It is less expensive and more environmentally friendly for the couple to simply fly to the wedding, rather than having hundreds of guests drive or fly west.

* Be mindful of wardrobe choices: Choose items that really can be worn again.

Skip the rented tuxes and ask groomsmen to wear a similar styled suit that they can add to their work wardrobe.

Bridesmaids can wear a simple black cocktail dress so that they're not left with a taffeta creation that will only hang in the closet afterward.

If you decide to go more traditional with wardrobe, find out if gowns can be recycled or donated so that they can be reused in another way.

* Choose recycled materials for wedding invitations and announcements: There are an increasing number of suppliers creating invitations from recycled materials.

Some will do all the assembly

for you; other less expensive items may be more hands-on. Cut down on further use of paper by creating a wedding Web site where you post directions, maps, party times, and other essential information so you avoid extra slip-in sheets with your invitations.

* Create car-pool options: Bus guests to your venue to save on gas. It is also a safer option for those who will be indulging in alcoholic beverages at the party since they won't have to drive on the return trip home.

* Investigate ecologically responsible wedding jewelry: According to Greenkarat, purveyors of ecologically responsible engagement rings and wedding bands, 2,500 tonnes of gold are mined each year, even though there is enough gold above ground (already mined) to satisfy all demands of the jewelry industry for the next 50 years.

Much of it sits in bank vaults and in the form of old and unused jewelry. See if you can recycle old jewelry into something new.

Or embrace the sentimental hand-me-down rings from a grandmother or other relative.

Tips For Wedding Day Photo Memories

While couples about to get married may differ with respect to personal style or what season in which to hold their wedding, most agree that having photo memories of their wedding is essential.

That's why a photographer is such an important part of the wedding planning process.

Although professional wedding portraits and albums are a key component to good memories, candid shots from you — the family and friends who attend the wedding — are some of the most cherished photos a couple can have.

Here are some tips for capturing all the incredible moments of this important day.

* Familiarize yourself with the camera: Take some time to learn the ins and outs of your camera before you're called upon to take pictures of the wedding.

Learn the best way to zoom and focus, and find out if your camera has any special features, such as black and white capabilities or panoramic views.

Also, don't forget to charge or replace the batteries. For those with digital memory cards, purchase a new one with plenty of space so you can freely snap away.

* Tell a story: Start taking pictures before the wedding even occurs.

If you're a friend or a family member, capture the special events leading up to the wedding, such as dress fittings, choosing wedding rings, the bridal shower, or shots of the bachelor party.

This way the photos can be put together to tell the entire story of the wedding, culminating with the big day.

* Go for the close-up: Stand no more than 4 to 6 feet from your subjects when snapping a picture.

You want to be sure the couple is the central focus of the picture, not the distracting background items.

* Shoot candid shots: Posed pictures have their place, but candid shots can really capture the mood and excitement of the day.

Snap away while everyone is dancing, when the couple isn't looking, or if you see a special moment that others may not be aware of.

* Include pictures of party participants: The couple will have plenty of images of themselves and their wedding party in a photographer's album.

What they may be missing are the people who actually attended the wedding.

Be sure to take plenty of pictures of the people who came together to share in this special day.

"We Cater All Your Wedding Needs!"

Sportsman's Restaurant & Catering



201 Boothe Dr.

Eagle Lake, Texas

979-234-3071

"Best Food in Texas"