



If you're a blushing green bride (or groom) to be, you've likely got decorations on the brain and are wondering how to best jazz up your venue without putting a lot of strain on the planet. We've got all the eco-wedding advice you'll need to ensure your beautiful day is as light on the earth as your high-flying feet!

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Planet-Friendly Wedding Considerations

Following is a must-do list of principles that, if applied to your eco wedding decoration planning, will ensure you prevent unnecessary waste while saving you some of the legwork and clean-up.

1. Rent! Rather than disposables or cheap, one-use options, go for rentals for dishes, linens, chairs, centrepieces, hanging decorations, and more. Not are they usually more elegant, it's also a great way to reduce waste!



2. Organic: Whether you're looking at flowers, food, or landscape care, choose items that are cultivated without chemicals.

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3. Local: This is a great principle to apply for things like food and flowers, but can also apply to decorations. Support your local small businesses that are trying to compete in the massive wedding industry. Also, consider what you can 'DIY' for your wedding; place holders from found pieces of wood, for example. Get your friends and family involved and those design muscles flexing!

4. Paperless: Forego the traditional invitations, programs, and place cards and instead choose paper-free methods for communicating with your guests.

5. Upcycled: Express your creativity by upcycling items such as, centrepieces, aisle decorations, chair embellishments, and more!

6. Biodegradable: Choose items that are free of plastic, metal, and glass and opt for materials like paper or plants that can be tossed in a compost pile.

7. High-Functioning, Reusables: If a wedding decoration cannot be biodegradable, ensure it's highly-useful and functional – and that it can be used for many years following the big day by virtually anyone. In particular, try to avoid one-use items like ribbon and packaging for gifts.

8. Donatable: Plenty of decorations can be donated to another local bride, wedding planner, or church. Use an online free giveaway site to make arrangements ahead of time for the recipient to pick up your decorations to help with your clean-up.

9. Recyclable: If none of the above options will work, ensure your wedding decorations are at least recyclable (especially when it comes to dishes and cups). Be sure to verify before purchasing an item that you've got facilities for hard-to-recycle things like plastics, metals, (stained) dishes, coloured papers, and tissue to guarantee they are properly processed.



We hope your day comes together flawlessly and greenly with this adviced





About the Author:

Maryruth has been seeking the keys to environmental justice—both at home and at work—for over a decade. Growing up adjacent to wild spaces, Maryruth developed a healthy respect (and whimsical appreciation) for things non-human, but her practical mind constantly draws her down to earth to ponder tangible solutions to complex eco-problems. With interests that range from green living to green business, sustainable building designs to organic gardening practices, ecosystem restoration to environmental health, Maryruth has been exploring and writing about earth-matters for most of her life. Of special interest is the subject of ecopsychology and the role the natural world plays in the long-term health and well-being of humanity. You can learn more about Maryruth's work by visiting her site.

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