



Plan Your Dream Day Without Daydreams

According to a recent survey by theKnot.com, WeddingChannel.com and ForbesWoman.com 90% of engaged women are planning their weddings on their company's time. Most of the communication between bride and vendors happens during the weekday with women spending about ten hours a week planning their wedding. I remember a co-worker spending hours on her cell phone during bathroom breaks and any other chances she had, working out her wedding arrangements. It left me wondering why in the world our boss didn't say anything.

Most companies understand to a point. However, crossing lines could lead to job loss and mar the fun. Here are some tips to avoid that.

1. **Get organized.** Tackle this project, as one would handle a task at work. Together with the team, in this case fiancé, parents and/or bridal party, decide what is most important and create a list of those priorities. Figure out a budget and stick to it, just as a project manager would. Organizing these particulars at the start of the engagement can prevent stressing out at work over wedding details and allow brides to focus on the tasks at hand.
2. **Time management.** A timeline at the beginning of the process, brides can make full use of workdays and weekends while still having some personal time that is oh so necessary as brides approach the big day. Noting how long specific tasks will take and when they should be completed can make the next step easier.
3. **Divide and conquer.** Breaking down a large task into smaller pieces is helpful. A report that would be submitted to the boss may take a week or so to complete—think of all the research, numbers and summaries one must compile first. Wedding planning works the same way. Delegate some wedding tasks to team members for completion. The bridal party is there to assist the bride and groom during the planning process as well as the day of the wedding.
4. **Communicate.** Communication is key throughout the entire planning process. Team projects in the office require regular meetings to ensure progress. For those participating in the bride and groom's planning team, it's important that they share their progress and

adhere to the timeline carefully planned according to the priority list. Maintaining clear lines of communication will ensure task completion and avoid a stressful bride.

However brides choose to juggle the responsibilities of their full-time job with their temporary position as full-time wedding planner, they should remember to keep a balance in life that provides happiness both personally and professionally!

Stoneleigh Event Consultant Meredith Thomas has many years of experience planning special events. Visit <http://www.stoneleighgolf.com/aisledish> for more Aisle Dish posts.