



2020

Wedding & Graduation

Easy but awesome photo booth ideas

Are you planning to set up a photo booth at your wedding? If you do, your guests will love hamming it up in front of the camera, and you'll wind up with a slew of fun, candid mementos. Here are some backdrop ideas for a photo booth you'll love.

- Sequins. For an old Hollywood feel, choose white, silver or gold. Or put a modern spin on it and choose reversible sequins that your guests can play with to change the look.
- Flowers. A wall of flowers is the perfect romantic backdrop. Match the blooms to your wedding colours or opt for white or red roses. Alternatively, create an ombre effect from light to dark using a variety of flowers in an array of hues.
- Balloons. The trick to nailing a balloon backdrop is to use balloons in various sizes and shapes. Choose pastel tones for a soft look or go for bright colours for a more whimsical touch.
- Wood. A wall of wood planks decorated with ivy and twinkle lights will make your guests feel like they're hanging out on your back porch. This backdrop is well-suited to a rustic or country themed wedding.



Don't forget to include props to take photos with. Frames, hats and mustaches on sticks are classic, as are comic book-style word bubbles with fun messages on them.



How to ace your wedding day makeup

All eyes are on the bride on her wedding day, and all cameras are too. Here are some makeup tips to ensure you look your best. **Be yourself**

Your wedding isn't the right time to try out a new look. Instead, strive for a slightly enhanced version of the makeup you normally wear. For some, this

may be dark eyeliner and a bold lip and for others, it may be a natural but radiant look.

Do a test run
Try out your wedding day makeup in advance. If you're doing it yourself, run through applying it a few times. If you're hiring a makeup artist, schedule an appointment a few weeks before the big day. Doing a test run will ensure you're happy with the results.

Use the right products
Even if you're not usually the emotional type, plan for tears on your wedding day. Opt for waterproof mascara, high quality liquid foundation and lipstick that won't smudge.

Don't forget to pack a kit that includes concealer, blotting papers and your lipstick for touch ups throughout the day.



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Wedding Checklist!



The question was popped and the proposal joyfully accepted. Now it's time to plan the wedding. Here's a month-by-month checklist to make sure you don't forget a thing.

12 MONTHS BEFORE

- Decide on the type of wedding you'd like (civil or religious, big or small)
- Choose a date
- Determine the number of guests
- Establish a budget
- Pick venues for the ceremony and reception (it's best to reserve early)

11 MONTHS BEFORE

- Make your guest list
- Choose a caterer (meet with a few first)
- Select your wedding party
- Hire a wedding planner

10 MONTHS BEFORE

- Start shopping for a wedding dress
- Decide on a theme for your wedding
- Choose an officiant if you haven't already done so

9 MONTHS BEFORE

- Book a photographer
- Reserve a block of hotel rooms for your out-of-town guests
- Purchase a wedding gown
- Shop for the groom's attire and purchase it

8 MONTHS BEFORE

- Meet with your officiant to plan your ceremony
- Book your entertainment (DJ, band, MC, etc.)
- Shop for and purchase your bridesmaids' dresses
- Design and order the wedding invitations and save-the-date cards

7 MONTHS BEFORE

- Create a gift registry
- Hire a florist
- Plan your honeymoon

6 MONTHS BEFORE

- Send out the save-the-date cards
- Book your hair and makeup appointments for the day of (also schedule trial runs for both)
- Book a hotel room for the wedding night if necessary

5 MONTHS BEFORE

- Create a schedule for the big day
- Decide on dates for bachelor and bachelorette parties
- Shop for and purchase shoes, jewelry and accessories

4 MONTHS BEFORE

- Reserve wedding day transportation for the wedding party
- Select alcohol and other drinks for the reception
- Taste and choose your wedding cake
- Buy wedding bands
- Shop for and order the groomsmen's attire

3 MONTHS BEFORE

- Purchase wedding favours for your guests
- If you'd like your loved ones to say or read something during the ceremony, let them know
- Write down your vows
- Decide on activities for the reception (photo booth, dancing, games, etc.)

2 MONTHS BEFORE

- Send out your wedding invitations
- Do trial runs for both hair and makeup
- Give your music selections to the DJ or MC

1 MONTH BEFORE

- Finalize the schedule for the big day
- Choose a seating plan for the reception
- Break in your shoes

1 WEEK BEFORE

- Visit the desired beauty professionals (hair colourist, esthetician, etc.)
- Practise reading your vows
- Write out cheques to pay your vendors

1 DAY BEFORE

- Get your nails done
- Give the cheques to someone you trust to pay the vendors

DAY OF

- Enjoy!

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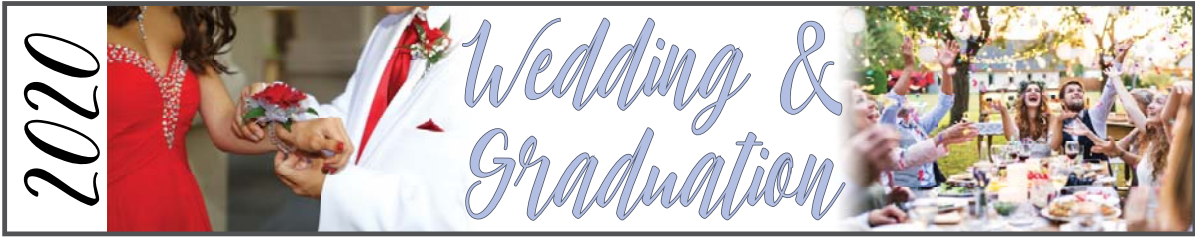
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Do your best to be prepared

Food and drink stations for your wedding reception

Are you looking for a way to make your wedding a little different? Any of these fun food or drink stations are sure to get your guests talking.

Snacks
Instead of passed hors d'oeuvres, create a fun snack bar. Pickles, charcuterie or even popcorn with various toppings are all great ideas for a laid back crowd. For a more luxurious touch, try an oyster bar or sushi station.

Dessert
Forgo the traditional wedding cake and offer your guests their choice of dessert. From donuts and pies to cupcakes and your favourite childhood cereals, anything goes. For summer weddings, cool down with ice cream, gourmet ice pops or sundaes.

Late night eats
After several hours of dancing and drinking, your guests will be ready for a late night snack. Think French fries with different dipping sauces, grilled cheese sandwiches or even a make-your-own-taco bar.

Drinks
While many weddings have a cocktail bar, you can also offer fresh juice, your favourite craft sodas or beers from nearby microbreweries. Or, a coffee bar complete with flavoured syrups is a great way to encourage the party to keep going all night.

Remember to tailor the food or drink station to your wedding and location. This will personalize the experience and make it more memorable.



Some food bars can even do double duty as your wedding favours if you provide cute boxes or jars alongside your pickles, cookies, candy or anything else that's easy to transport.

Your Grad dress awaits you



The right dress should flatter your figure and enhance your complexion.

This is your graduation formal, the day you've been dreaming of, so naturally you want to find a dress that you love and that turns heads. As you browse the stores, keep in mind your body type and your complexion. Those two elements should be

your guide when choosing and trying on dresses for the big night.

Every body type suits a certain style of dress. A young woman with a small bust and wide hips looks best in a dress with a fitted top, thin straps and loose-fitting hips. On the other hand, if your shoulders are wide and your waist is narrow, go for a model with sleeves and a fairly loose top. For thicker-waisted silhouettes, an Empire waist, cross-over neckline and belt are ideal. If you're apple-shaped, a loose, knee-length dress will likely be the most flattering. An hourglass figure goes well with a style that's flared at the bottom and fitted at the waist.

Shiny fabrics give an impression of volume, while light, airy fabrics are ideal if you're apple-shaped or petite. Lace is a good match for broad shoulders and slim hips, but tulle and crinolines are perfect for well-defined hips. Also, be sure to choose a color that blends with your skin tone. Warm colors suit fair complexions perfectly, while white enhances darker complexions.

It goes without saying that your personality and your budget need to have the last say. The important thing is to choose a dress that is comfortable for dancing and that makes you feel beautiful, just the way you are.

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