

Add “Green” To Your Wedding Colour Palette

The average wedding in the U.S. produces 400 pounds of garbage and 63 tons of CO₂ (according to Green Bride Guide).

Everyone remembers the famous scene from *Steel Magnolias* when Julia Roberts argued that her wedding colour was not pink, but blush and bashful. But, here is an idea! Why not add “green” to your wedding plans and we don’t mean moss and parsley!

The environment can be a touchy subject, especially in our political world, but clearly this young generation wants to do things that are truly eco-friendly. So, why not for your wedding too?

The couple will certainly feel good about it, but so will your guests knowing that you consciously took major steps to help the environment.

We at Blame Her Ranch, given our rural and southwestern heritage in Santa Fe, love this idea! What should be on your “green” list? Here are a few suggestions:

1. DINNERWARE

It is easy to gravitate towards plastic cups and paper plates instead of using dinnerware. Yes, more expensive and yes, more clean up, but the savings of trash bags full of disposables more than makes up for this special step. And, let’s face it, fine china, glassware and real utensils are a lot more classy!

2. DRIED FLOWERS

Rice and paper confetti are nearly impossible to clean-up and not always biodegradable. Add a little colour by using dried flowers both for the flower girls and to send off the couple.

3. DECORATIONS

For every wedding at BHR, we ask the couple to donate their decorations for future weddings. While this can save you a few bucks, it also avoids buying un-recycled decorations or buying paper materials to create your own. If you do need to create your own, use recycled materials.

4. POTTED FLOWERS VS CUT FLOWERS

While it cannot work in all situations or venues, BHR likes to suggest that couples use potted flowers and other live plants instead of cut flowers that die soon after the ceremony. These special flowers can be taken home after the wedding

and enjoyed for years to come. If you do use cut flowers, we suggest pressing them or drying them after the big day.

5. INVITATIONS

Digital invitations are certainly the new trend. If you decide to do this, make a small contribution to an environmental organisation with the money you would have spent on printed invitations. But, if your heart is set on something physical, we suggest you print your invitations on plantable seed paper or recycled paper.

6. SHUTTLES

If you are having your wedding at a venue like Blame Her Ranch, we strongly recommend shuttles for a host of reasons, but, it also cuts down on carbon emissions.

7. LOCAL INGREDIENTS

When picking your caterers, you obviously need to make sure the food tastes incredible. But, you should also ask the caterer’s use of local ingredients. This is particularly important here in Santa Fe, NM where chefs embrace local farmers and ranchers when designing their menu. Speaking of menus, add a note about where the ingredients of each dish come from. Maybe a little extra work, but a nice subtle touch.

8. WEDDING FAVOURS

Many couples offer a bag of treats for when guests arrive or leave on their special day. What an area to go “green”. Like your choice of flower and vegetable seeds for them to plant as a living proof of your nuptials. But, also in that recycled gift bag can be recycled items that encourage your guests to take an active role in Eco friendly steps in their day-to-day life.

9. TABLE DECORATIONS

Instead of lining your dinner tables with baby’s breath and cut flowers, replace all that wastage with mini-succulents or small potted plants and tell everyone to take one home as a gift.

Before “biting” into this green apple (which is another idea in its own right), you need to merchandise and communicate all your green initiatives at your wedding. You’re making a big contribution to the environment and your wedding can be a showpiece and a great learning experience for your guests. Even little things help, so don’t feel you need to do them all. Tell the story and what you did on big recycled posters to highlight the extra effort you put into making your wedding truly green. **WH**