

# ECO *wedding* CHECKLIST



- SAVE THE DATES/ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
Choose a paper that doesn't leave waste behind like seed paper or opt for an email announcement.
- DETERMINE YOUR GUEST LIST**  
Use a carbon calculator to watch the amount of impact your wedding will have based on number of guests and their travel needs. ([greenbrideguide.com/plan/carbon-calculator](http://greenbrideguide.com/plan/carbon-calculator))
- THE VENUE/LOCATION**  
Choose a location that is closest to the majority of your guests and have the ceremony and reception in the same place or close together to reduce travel costs. Then you can research the venues in your chosen location to find ones that offer eco-friendly options.
- CATERER**  
Book a caterer who offers local, seasonal and/or organic food.
- ENSURE EVENT DAY RECYCLING & COMPOSTING**  
Discuss options for recycling, composting or even donating leftovers with your caterer and venue.
- INVITATIONS**  
Choose an option made from recycled paper or better yet, choose seed paper that can be planted to grow wildflowers while leaving no waste behind.
- THE FLOWERS**  
Choose local and seasonal flowers or plant a garden yourself with the blooms you'd like for your wedding. If you hire a florist, be sure to communicate your values so they can give you the most eco-friendly options.
- LIGHTING**  
Choose natural lighting where possible to reduce energy usage. Lanterns and solar lights are lovely options.
- THE DRESS**  
Wear a vintage or gently used wedding gown or choose one made from eco-friendly materials like organic cotton, bamboo or hemp. If you must buy new, consider donating it after so another bride can re-use it.
- WEDDING PARTY ATTIRE**  
Allow your bridal party to choose their own attire within your color scheme so they can wear the dresses again to avoid waste. Choose rentals for the groomsmen or pieces that they can also re-wear.
- REGISTRY**  
When registering for gifts, consider shops that produce locally and request natural products where possible. For example, if you need new sheets, specify organic, fair trade cotton. Only register for essential items that you will definitely use to avoid unnecessary waste.

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## TRAVEL

Help arrange carpools for guests that are coming from the same area to reduce emissions. You can also arrange shuttles for loved ones if there's a longer journey to the venue.

## GUESTBOOK

Instead of using a paper based guestbook, try making your own using elements found in nature that they can sign such as smooth rocks or a tree stump. Alternatively, you also get creative with an upcycle DIY craft using found items like an old globe, photographs or even old wine corks that you can display the home after.

## PLACE SETTINGS

Choose wooden plates and cutlery over plastic or china like the ones found at Green Munch ([greenmunch.ca/wooden-dinnerware](http://greenmunch.ca/wooden-dinnerware)). They look amazing and you'll save a ton of water as well as the energy required to run dish washers during cleanup!

## WEDDING FAVORS

Choose earth friendly wedding favors that don't produce unnecessary waste like plantable seed bombs or seed paper favors. You could also make your own using natural, locally sourced products like fresh fruits, plants, honey and jams. For packaged items, choose biodegradable packaging like seed paper boxes.

## THE RINGS

Find eco-friendly wedding ring options like the ones from Brilliant Earth that are made from recycled metals ([brilliantearth.com/recycled-gold-jewelry](http://brilliantearth.com/recycled-gold-jewelry)). You can even choose wood rings like the ones from Touch Wood Rings ([touchwoodrings.com](http://touchwoodrings.com)) to be even more in touch with nature. Vintage rings are also a great eco option!

## DECOR

Choose to re-use decoration instead of buying brand new. Once the planning begins, make frequent visits to various thrift stores to look for unique decor items like chairs, vases, candle holders, books and mirrors so you can re-use them as home decor or donate them again. Using rentals is also a great way to reduce waste!

## SEATING CHART

Use recycled items like a window or chalkboard to tell guests where they'll be sitting instead of paper cards.