

Siman Tov

BS"D

and Mazel Tov

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# Kol Kallah

All of the technical arrangements for a *kallah* during the engagement period /// **Edition 14**

## **Mazel tov! You're a *kallah*!**

The purpose of this booklet is to make the many arrangements during this busy period easier and to provide the *kallah* with an idea of what to expect, what she must organize, and when. We hope that this booklet will help maintain the emotional calmness so important during this period and make more room for truly focusing on preparing to build a new Jewish home on the non-technical level. It helps to know that all of the necessary arrangements are listed here, eliminating the need to try to think of "what else is left to do..."

The booklet is filled with details, and naturally, not all of them are relevant to everyone and every community. However, a large portion of what is included here is based on the recommendations and lessons learned by people who have organized simchas and shared them with us, as well as service providers and event producers. They learned these lessons by losing significant amounts of money, time, and through stress and heartache. Therefore, we recommend reading through the booklet thoroughly, and even if you choose otherwise, at least you will have already read the experienced recommendations of others.

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Mazel tov! | **Gmach Birkat Yisrael**

## Stage One /// **The Day After the Vort**

Since the engagement period is a very busy time, especially for the *kallah*, it is highly recommended to keep a planner and a calendar to remember meetings, dates, and important details that you don't want to forget. It is too hard to keep everything in your head. There are things that should be closed as soon as possible, right after the *vort*:

### **Venue**

The first thing to do after the engagement is to **look for a venue**, which will also determine the date of the wedding. There are less busy seasons of the year (winter, Elul), and periods when, within a few hours, a hall can be taken! Therefore, it is a good idea to work quickly and check a few venues simultaneously, and to close with the most suitable one. There are halls where the catering is ordered separately, and this should also be settled immediately. It is clear that this stage (like all of the details to follow) needs to be coordinated and agreed upon with the "other side." Make sure that there are no important events in the family / at the seminar / yeshiva on this date.

For your convenience, you can use Gmach Birkat Yisrael's list of halls, which features the full contact information for halls all over the country: name, address, contact person, telephone, guest capacity, accessibility features, and so forth. The list can be downloaded from the website directly at [Text Ratz Publishing](http://TextRatzPublishing.com) (accessible with all filters). If you will be having a *Shabbat Aufruf* / *Sheva Brachot* in a hall – that should also be booked as soon as possible.

After you have closed on a hall "orally," you will usually be asked to provide a deposit within a few days, and to sit and settle all of the event details. Regarding all of these matters (the hall, hours, menu, locations, contract and more), you will find details in the *Kol Mitzhalot* booklet for parents of the *chattan* and *kallah*.

## Band

The *chattan's* side usually chooses the band (with mutual consent and understanding, of course). Usually, there is a manager connected to the yeshiva who can arrange good prices and knows which professionals are available, what the recommended ensembles are (it is not a good idea to put together an ensemble on your own, if the musicians aren't used to playing together). Prices for bands range from NIS 3,000 - NIS 10,000, and vary depending on whether you have a *poiker* / keyboard / instruments, etc. More details on this topic appear in the **Kol Chattan** booklet.

## Photographer

In terms of photographers, the demand is high too, and it's a good idea to book one quickly. On the one hand - what is left after the wedding (on technical level!) are the photos and videos; on the other hand - not many couples open their albums on a daily or monthly basis, after a few years have gone by. Based on what we have checked, the average number of times that a couple opens their album ranges between five and thirty, and no more! There are photographers who are more expensive than the standard, but sometimes their work does not justify their high rates. Therefore, it is not worth splurging on a high price, but attempts to be too thrifty can also result in a lot of heartache. In our experience, younger and less familiar photographers put a lot more effort into their work in order to prove themselves, compared with famous photographers who sometimes seem to have lost their enthusiasm a bit. Considering these points and discussing with the "other side" could lead you to the right choice for your families.

**Photo shoots at locations:** If this is important to you, coordinate the details as well. We received very painful letters on this topic, and many *kallahs* severely regretted their photo shoot. Common reasons were: too much heat and sweating before the wedding (or worse - torrential rain), dirt and dust on the wedding dress, pressure and mistakes in calculating the time, coming late to the wedding and exhaustion from the photo shoot. Therefore, it is worth considering if this addition to the album is actually important to you. If it is important to you - it is very possible that there is a grove, overlook, garden, or pretty location near the hall which you can visit more easily for a short time before the wedding.

**Mandatory:** Prepare a **detailed, signed, clear, written contract** in advance and copy the parts relevant to you: Many photographers offer their own contract, and if so, check that the following details are included. A bit of effort at the contract stage can save you a lot of money and heartache later.

### Basis for a standard contract:

- The event will take place at \_\_\_\_\_ in the city of \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ (better to include the secular date to avoid misunderstandings).
- The photographer himself will be present the entire wedding, and not a team representing him (unless otherwise agreed in advance).
- The entire team will be onsite at the hall from \_\_\_ until \_\_\_ exactly (option: with the exception of the female photographer, who will be present from \_\_\_ until \_\_\_).
- At the beginning and/or end of the event, there will be family photos with/without backgrounds, and outdoor photos for the *chattan* and *kallah*.
- If additional time is needed at the event, the price will be: \_\_\_ per hour, according to a relative calculation of the time.
- The photos will be printed on a \_\_\_\_\_ type album, photo size \_\_\_\_\_, with \_\_\_ printed pages.
- For the album, it will be possible to choose \_\_\_ photos out of all of the photos taken.
- In addition, the photographer will also provide \_\_\_ albums (for the parents), type \_\_\_\_\_, size \_\_\_\_\_.
- A digital file of photos from the event at development quality will be provided by \_\_\_\_\_ at the latest, or \_\_\_ days after the photo selection is finished.
- The printed album will be ready by \_\_\_\_\_ at the latest, or \_\_\_ days after selections have been made.
- The final price for everything, including: photographer, female photographer, video, editing, (delivery), and additions will be \_\_\_ and all prices already include VAT.
- \_\_\_% will be paid as a deposit, \_\_\_% at the end of the wedding, and \_\_\_% will be paid upon receipt of the album.

### Possible additions available:

- There will be a photo shoot before the event with the photographer himself, beginning at \_\_\_\_\_, at (location): \_\_\_\_\_ (less recommended, as aforementioned).
- There will be a separate female photographer for the women, at a quality equal to the male photographer.
- There will be video photography at a quality of at least 1080 Full HD throughout the entire wedding.
- The video will be properly edited and provided on a storage device for comfortable viewing, in \_\_\_ copies.
- In addition to the regular video, a high-quality video clip will be added to the beginning of the video.
- \_\_\_ copies of the video will be provided by \_\_\_\_\_ at the latest.

- The standard price for **all** of the above, from a professional, familiar photographer, should be about NIS 7000. Photographers who are just starting out take less. When you receive the material from the photographer, a few backup copies should be made in case the storage device gets lost. The best options are backup on a server or cloud (Google Drive, etc.).

There are photographers who will let you choose the good pictures out of all of the photos taken (some utilize special software), while other photographers will do it themselves. What's better? You decide. Even for quick, efficient couples, this can sometimes drag the process out for months.

We have been asked to point out: When the photographer does whatever he wants, a situation can easily arise in which it is **forbidden to look at the album / video, according to the *Shulchan Aruch***. This is especially relevant to videos of the dancing (even if you are not stringent in this area, there may be women who are and it is worth respecting their wishes), certain photography positions, and more. **Insist on your preferences, he is working for you!**

## **Hair and Makeup**

Once you have set a date for the wedding, it is highly recommended that you book a makeup artist and a hairstylist for the day of the wedding. **Demand in this area is high, and the top professionals are fully booked quickly.** It is a good idea to talk to friends who used someone and were pleased with the job, and to ask the makeup artist for **real photos** of different makeup styles that she has done in the past. The important points to check are:

- Price - Total cost for makeup, hair, accompanying hair accessories.
- Additions - To the price for coming to the location where the *kallah* is getting ready, and for renting a styled wig (for those who have the custom).
- Service - Courteous, considerate service that is pleasant and generous.
- Attentiveness - Does she style according to the *kallah's* preferences and taste, or does she go by her own taste.
- Calm atmosphere - Check whether she leaves enough time to work calmly (especially if she has additional *kallahs* the same day).
- Work that lasts - Quality products that are professional and strong and will still look great by the end of the wedding.
- Hairstyling - Will the hairstyle stay together until the end of the evening (dancing, etc.).
- Tip!** It is effective and convenient (and sometimes cheaper) to hire one professional who does both hair and makeup.

**Please note!** Based on the experiences of many *kallahs*, it is better to hire a professional, experienced makeup artist who uses quality, lasting products and not a cheaper artist who saves on products and work, which results in having to bring her to the hall to fix issues later. (This costs more than the difference in prices, the delay at the wedding is also significant, and most of all - this can cause heartache that isn't worth the savings. Of course, there is no need to exaggerate either.)

**If you will be wearing a sheitel at the wedding** - Update the hairstylist and check whether she can bring the wig (for an additional price for the rental) or if you need to rent one independently. In any event, you need to go and match the color of the wig to your hair. In addition, check that the wig comes washed and set for the wedding day. It is better to arrange the entire hairstyle on the *kallah's* head on the wedding day, and not bring it half-set.

**When you finalize** - Update / summarize the following details in a clear, unequivocal manner, preferably in writing:

- Location of the styling - *Kallah's* house / bridal salon / hotel / other.
- Clear price for the entire service, including everything.
- Exact time for starting (leave enough time before you are meant to leave for the hall, especially if you will be doing an outdoor photo shoot.)
- Place** - the exact address. And whether there will be touch-ups in the Yichud room.
- Makeup trial - Set a date, as early as possible! (to choose a style, more or less, shades, etc.)
- Lighting - Let the makeup artist know what type of lighting is in the hall. It is a good idea to make sure there is similar lighting at the place where you will be getting ready.

It is important to note that if you are organizing the event independently, it is highly recommended to finish most of the preparations the day before the wedding, and if this is not possible - you will need to show up early in the morning and get everything ready quickly. If you haven't done this before, you have no idea how long it can take...

## Engagement announcement

There are different opinions on this matter. For some, this is a very important and obligatory matter, while others think it is a waste of money (there are places where the announcement can be made for free). In any event, if you have decided to invest in it, take a minute to think about the wording (Rav/R'...Shlita). Make sure that there are no mistakes in the names, dates, and titles. For some reason, in many cases, this simple, small and critical bit of text has the most mistakes in the entire newspaper. It is a good idea to receive the sample by email and approve the announcement, and not rely on oral confirmation. The newspaper made a mistake that was their fault? They will usually compensate you and run it again.

## Stage Two /// Before the Engagement Party

### Jewelry

It is possible that your future mother-in-law, if she sees fit and out of the kindness of her heart, will give you jewelry in honor of the engagement or at a different time. Whatever you receive - say thank you :

Your mother-in-law may choose to purchase jewelry in one of the following ways, if she decides to, of course (this is a gift, don't forget). Here are some of the options.

- A. Surprising** the *kallah* with jewelry of her choice, according to her personal taste. If you received it and you like it - wonderful. If you really, really don't like it, and it is possible to exchange it, it is better to overcome the unpleasantness and exchange the jewelry, rather than holding on to jewelry you don't like for the next twenty years.
- B. Bringing a few options to choose from.** If nothing comes close to your style - overcome the embarrassment and ask delicately if there are other options. If this happens at the engagement party itself - be flexible, what can you do...
- C. Go with her to choose.** If your mother-in-law decided on this format, go ahead with it. Relationships between *kallah* and mother-in-law are different than in the past and closer than ever. It is important that you choose something that you like and that will make you feel closer, and not the opposite, but also have some mercy on your dear mother-in-law's wallet and be considerate and pleasant.
- D. A sales representative.** Your mother-in-law may send you a sales representative with a few samples or a printed catalogue. It is harder to get a clear idea from a catalogue, and you may be able to ask him to come with the samples, or - you may be able to go to the original store to see them up close.
- E. A store, coordinated in advance.** Your mother-in-law may choose a store and coordinate with them in advance, and then you will be asked to go and choose from the selection offered to you. She will let you know which jewelry to choose from, and try to find something that you like. If you didn't find anything, you can perhaps take a picture of a piece of jewelry that you liked from a different store and ask the salesperson if they have something in a similar style (the store can often order if there is something specific).  
In this case, go with your mother, a friend or two (no more, so as not to be confused by everyone's opinions). Please, do this calmly, without huge shopping bags hanging off your arms, without being pressured for time, and not when the store is about to close. Your mother-in-law is paying a hefty sum to make you happy, and it is important that you choose something that will really be special to you.

Sometimes, it is tempting to buy a fashionable piece, but remember - gold stays classic and beautiful for hundreds of years, while designs that are too specific can become unfashionable within two years or even less. At the store, ask about the durability of the jewelry, strength of the clasps, etc., and make sure that a warranty is provided for the jewelry. If you choose a piece that is set with a stone - laser settings are stronger and more durable.

**Very important!** If you, the *kallah*, go to the store to choose according to Option E, double check that you are being provided service as "**the *kallah* of ...**" After you choose, check that they write your name **very clearly** on the jewelry that you have chosen, so that nothing will get mixed up by mistake. (There have already been stories of mistakenly buying a completely different piece that was more expensive and also ugly. The mother-in-law ended up angry, the *kallah* was upset, but both sides kept quiet for years because "they felt uncomfortable.") It is also a good idea to describe or even take a picture of the beautiful piece of jewelry that you chose.

Of course, for every gift, and especially this one that could cost thousands of shekels, it is appropriate to go and personally thank your mother-in-law, to express how satisfied and happy you are with her gift, and how much you appreciate her generosity!

### **Gifts for the Chattan**

It is customary for the father of the *kallah* to buy the *chattan* a set of **Talmud Bavli**, and to check which Shas he prefers to receive. It is possible to get one or two Gemaras wrapped up in a special gift package and then sent to the *chattan's* house or to the hall. It can also be purchased later. (Stuck? You wanted to bring a decorated gift package but the Shas didn't arrive in time or hasn't been chosen yet? Nothing will happen if you wrap up and display someone else's new Gemara... Shh... No one will know).

The common editions purchased as a gift for the *chattan* are:

- Shas Oz V'Hadar - Chattanim edition (27 volumes, 36 cm) - estimated price: NIS 3,600
- Shas Oz V'Hadar - Expanded edition (27 volumes) - estimated price: NIS 3,000
- Shas Oz V'Hadar - Regular edition (20 volumes) - estimated price: NIS 2,500
- The new Shas Vilna - Expanded edition (27 volumes) - estimated price: NIS 2,700
- The new Shas Vilna - Regular edition (20 volumes) - estimated price: NIS 2,100

In addition to the Shas, some give the *chattan* a **watch** at the engagement party, or a different gift as per his choice. **In any event, it is a good idea to make sure that it can be exchanged!**

**During the engagement period-** There are those who give additional gifts, according to the different holidays during the period, birthdays, etc. Some give more and some give less, in terms of quantity and quality, all based on norms and customs. Possible ideas for gifts for the *chattan* (try to check somehow that he doesn't have them yet): *Shulchan Aruch*, *Rambam*, *Tur*, *Mishnah Berurah*, *Nach*, table/standing *shtender*, *kiddush* cup, *machzor* set, *havdalah* set, *etrog* box (or a *mehudar etrog*), *chanukiah*, *megillah*, *Seder* plate, watch, cufflinks, tie (comes with the risk of not knowing his taste).

**Additional gift ideas** [after the wedding too...]: Books, more books, a fancy pen, camera, computer and related equipment, various storage devices (you can add photos or content), cell phone, cell phone cover, MP3, earphones, car accessories, speaker system, portable speaker, tools, lamps, and more. There are businesses that will print photos on many of the above items and on canvas, free-standing materials, and more - you're probably familiar with these. Aside from these gifts, there are those who bring something sweet to each meeting (and nothing can beat your own homemade treats) with a note, etc. - all as relevant and based on your preferences.

**For the wedding** -It is customary to buy a *tallit* for the *chuppah*. Preferences that should be checked with the *chattan*: >size > type of fabric (regular/non-slip) >length and thickness of the strings > how they should be tied. It is also customary to give a *tallit* and *tefillin* bags set (check regarding: > color of the velvet (or other material) >size of the bag > style > embroidering the name [full name/initials]).

### **First Shabbat**

For your first Shabbat at the *chattan's* parents' house, it is nice to bring a gift for the *chattan*, your future sisters- and brothers-in-law, and for the home in general (*challah* cover/board, etc.). (Take into account that we wrote the same idea in the **Kol Chattan** booklet...). It is a good idea to "spy" with the help of a younger brother/sister and make sure that the gift is actually needed, and wasn't just bought already a month ago. Want to bake an impressive cake? Do it on Thursday, especially in the winter.

On the first Shabbat that the *chattan* spends at your house, he isn't usually given a gift, because the guest usually brings the gift. But something tasty that you made + a short note is always good... For most young men, the very fact that someone made something tasty especially for them is heartwarming...

## Stage Three /// **The Engagement Period**

### **Cosmetics**

Approach a licensed cosmetician about two months before the wedding in order to receive guidance and advice, and a recommended schedule for future treatments, with **all** of the details. There are things that are strongly discouraged

too close to the wedding, because they can leave marks... In addition, it is not a good idea to try out new products too close to the wedding, in order to avoid side effects. **Prepare a detailed schedule for yourself with all of these matters.**

**Shopping**

**It is highly recommended** to hurry up with the shopping as much as possible, and to leave yourself free time as the wedding approaches. New things to buy and organize always pop up as time goes on, and it is not a good idea to wait until the last minute. *Kallot* share that running around and taking care of technical errands during the days leading up to the wedding is very unpleasant, and the recommendation is to try to reach the wedding as mentally calm as possible. In this context, we naturally cannot provide a list of clothing that is suitable for everyone, in every community, so it is highly recommended that you take the time to sit and make yourself a **full, detailed list** of all of the clothing and related items that you need, so that you can check what you already have and what you need to buy.

Remember to include: Shabbat clothing (*Sheva Brachot*), weekday clothing, hair coverings, glasses/contact lenses (solution), shoes (Shabbat, weekday, slippers), socks, robes, personal garments and supplies, winter items, cosmetic items, makeup, and more. Think about additional items and include them all in a detailed list that you can check off.

**Nedunya**

It is not a good idea to start buying *nedunya* items until after the engagement party (if there is one), so that you don't buy things that you might receive anyway as a gift.

It is recommended to check a few stores and compare prices and quality, especially when it comes to expensive items. It is **highly** recommended to also check price comparison websites! There can be big differences, even when the products are similar or even identical! Attached is a list that may be helpful. It is clear that not everything needs to be bought, and many things can be bought after the wedding, especially things that aren't necessary the very day after the wedding. ✂**Cut and Save**✂

Sleep and toiletries	<input type="checkbox"/> Bedding	<input type="checkbox"/> Hand towels	<input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo / bath soap	<input type="checkbox"/> Hand soap
	<input type="checkbox"/> Summer blankets	<input type="checkbox"/> Wash cloths	<input type="checkbox"/> Conditioner	<input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush
	<input type="checkbox"/> Winter blankets	<input type="checkbox"/> Bath towels	<input type="checkbox"/> Bath sponges	<input type="checkbox"/> Toothpaste / mouthwash
	<input type="checkbox"/> Down comforters	<input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen towels	<input type="checkbox"/> Bar soap	<input type="checkbox"/> Small mirror
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pillows	<input type="checkbox"/> Bathrobe	<input type="checkbox"/> Wipes	<input type="checkbox"/> Cotton swabs
	<input type="checkbox"/> Mattress protectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper	<input type="checkbox"/> Shoe shining sponge	<input type="checkbox"/> Small garbage bin
	<input type="checkbox"/> Night light	<input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper holder	<input type="checkbox"/> Shoe polish	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/> Dairy and meat pots	<input type="checkbox"/> Peeler	<input type="checkbox"/> Milk jug	<input type="checkbox"/> Sandwich/freezer bags
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pan	<input type="checkbox"/> Chopping knife	<input type="checkbox"/> Can opener	<input type="checkbox"/> Garbage bags
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cups	<input type="checkbox"/> Cutting board	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable peeler	<input type="checkbox"/> Calendar
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plates	<input type="checkbox"/> Bowls and small bowls	<input type="checkbox"/> Storage containers	<input type="checkbox"/> Trivets for hot pots
	<input type="checkbox"/> Dairy silverware	<input type="checkbox"/> Washing cup	<input type="checkbox"/> Toothpicks	<input type="checkbox"/> Tablecloth
	<input type="checkbox"/> Meat silverware	<input type="checkbox"/> Dish drying rack	<input type="checkbox"/> Tissues / napkins	<input type="checkbox"/> Tylenol, band-aids
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice cube tray	<input type="checkbox"/> Kettle	<input type="checkbox"/> Salt shaker	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Cleaning and maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Dish soap	<input type="checkbox"/> Floor cleaning liquid	<input type="checkbox"/> Toilet brush	<input type="checkbox"/> Iron + ironing board
	<input type="checkbox"/> Dish sponges	<input type="checkbox"/> Floor-washing rags	<input type="checkbox"/> Air freshener	<input type="checkbox"/> Hangers
	<input type="checkbox"/> Steel wool / heavy-duty sponge	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic insecticide	<input type="checkbox"/> Bleach	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone book
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning rags	<input type="checkbox"/> Mop + bucket	<input type="checkbox"/> Preferred cleaning agents	<input type="checkbox"/> Minimal writing supplies
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sink strainer	<input type="checkbox"/> Broom + dustpan	<input type="checkbox"/> Laundry detergent	<input type="checkbox"/> Tape
	<input type="checkbox"/> Matches (wicks)	<input type="checkbox"/> Suitcase / travel bag	<input type="checkbox"/> Fabric softener	<input type="checkbox"/> Wrapping paper and ribbons
	<input type="checkbox"/> Rubber bands / pins	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic tools	<input type="checkbox"/> Batteries / chargers	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

**Important note:** Based on the experiences of many young women, at first, it is difficult to correctly estimate which items will be useful and necessary, and which really won't be. An ornamental stand for butcher knives might look like a must-have item in the store, but after the wedding, you just might find yourselves staring at it with a perplexed look

and trying to find somewhere to store it. So, buy the basic items, but regarding anything that is not necessary - it is definitely better to leave it for after the wedding and buy it only as needed.

**Our warm recommendation:** (Many people wrote to us about this!) If you are contemplating whether to buy a certain item, leave it on the shelf, and only when you feel its absence ("we need a laundry-drying rack, quick!"), buy it together. You will enjoy the purchase more and save storage space, not to mention - a lot of money. **Side note:** Scientific studies have shown that the sentence "Why not, always a good thing to have around..." is in fact incorrect. Completely.

## **Kallah classes**

**As soon as possible,** contact an **authorized**, recommended, sympathetic *kallah* teacher with excellent explanatory skills. Trying to save money in this area is highly discouraged! (If you don't know someone and have no way of checking - you can contact the rabbi of your neighborhood/city). The classes are composed of about 10 sessions of varying lengths, with usually about a week between each session, so it is a good idea to start as early as you can. The average price is between NIS 1500-2500.

**Important note:** As human beings, we always tend to look for the cheapest/free option, but in this area, it is recommended not to try to save money (although there are those who offer cheap or even free classes...). Think to yourself: a photographer is meant to earn a living from her work. Why is a *kallah* teacher any different? Why should someone professional, experienced, and recommended who underwent (expensive) training and studied a lot provide free services to everyone? Everyone pays a few thousands to a band with no problem, for a few hours of celebrating. The same is true for makeup, hair, the dress, etc. But when it comes to such important topics that influence and shape the entire foundation of the home for many years to come - should we try to be cheap? We are writing this in light of messages we received from several organizations involved in *Shalom Bayit*, who told us with great pain that attempts to save money and not take these critical topics seriously enough could lead to the actual destruction of homes. Please dedicate serious thought to this area.

In any event, at the end of the classes, you will receive a written letter of confirmation from the teacher. **You must save it to bring when you register for marriage** (see the *Kol Chattan* booklet).

For those who are interested, the *Netivoteha* organization, run by Rabbi Nachum Diamant, organizes seminars for *kallahs* filled with spiritual, meaningful content about building a Jewish home. They take place in Bnei Brak and cost NIS 60 (if you are coming from outside the city - NIS 50). For more information and to register, call: 052-761-3824.

## **Invitations**

For those who want to add a personal note to the invitations for friends, etc. - it is recommended to start writing these notes as soon as possible, because as time goes on, the errands and tasks only increase, and there needs to be enough time for the invitations to reach their destinations **before** the date of the wedding. These notes can be written on separate stationery and added to the invitation when the time comes, which means that you can start writing them even before the invitations are printed. Don't forget Mazel tov stickers. It is recommended to keep a few blank invitations in your purse on a regular basis, in case you meet someone you want to invite. Details about printing and sending the invitations can be found in the ***Kol Mitzhalot*** booklet.

Tip! Ask the office of the seminar / workplace for a complete list of the students / teachers / employees, which you can use to make a list of people you want to invite. Remember teachers and friends from the past (seminar, high school, elementary school, daycare...), friends from the neighborhood, the park, the mini-market, and more (the pediatrician who has seen the *kallah* since she was a baby might also be moved to receive an invitation).

## **Wig (for those who have the custom)**

A wig is not cheap, but it is something that you will use for a long time after the wedding. A wig can be nice, high-quality, and comfortable, or it can be quite a headache when it isn't, so it is important to invest time and effort in this purchase.

A first wig is **something new that takes time to get used to**, especially for those who are used to wearing their hair pulled back all of the time. You will be buying your first wig without any personal experience, without knowing which style suits the shape of your face (long, round, broad, narrow), before the final choice of the desired shade of color, and more. Therefore, before you decide, it is a very good idea to try on different types of styles (that are realistic for you), and to check a few different shades of color, in order to make the best choice. This could take a long time, so the process of looking for a wig should be started **as early as possible**. Take into account that if you choose to order a wig,

or ask for adjustments to be made - additional time will be needed. By the way, buying a first wig by personal order is **highly discouraged**, in order to avoid "surprises."

There are a few types of wigs:

- Synthetic wig** - Check the density of the hair and the sewing, because sometimes these can be thin and sparse. Average price: NIS 1500
- Wig made of processed hair ("from a box")**- Natural hair that underwent chemical processing to change the color, texture, and other traits of the hair. These wigs can usually be found in stores, ready and styled - which can give you a real, more precise indication of how they look and whether they suit your face. There are types of processed hair that can poof out or change their shade over time. It is recommended to buy a processed hair wig at a trustworthy, well-known salon, in order to ensure that it is high-quality. Average price: NIS 4000
- Natural hair wig** - Natural hair that has not been processed (straight, wavy, curly). These wigs are usually hand-sewn, so they are higher quality and last longer, with a longer warranty. These wigs last a long time and act like natural hair. These wigs can often be washed by hand (washing in a store costs about NIS 100). If you buy from a wig stylist - ask her customers whether they are satisfied with the service, warranty, professionalism, and the prices, in order to avoid unpleasant situations. Average price: NIS 6000 and up (depends mainly on the length). A wig with an attached headband/hat is usually cheaper.

Tips:

- If you are buying two wigs, it is recommended not to buy both of them at the beginning. Learn lessons from the first one before you buy the second one.
- It is highly recommended to buy an anti-slip velvet headband that you can wear underneath, to hold the wig in place. (Also works well if you wear scarves.)
- A wig box is very useful for storing the wig and protecting it at home and when traveling, as well as a Styrofoam wig head (some salons provide them for free).
- It is recommended to check out in advance what wig length is customarily worn in your home (current and future), because cutting a wig shorter after the fact could result in a less pretty result than a wig that was originally styled at that length.

## **Kallah's chair | Flower arrangements**

This concept is relatively new in certain circles, and is definitely not part of the *mitzvah* of *kiddushin*. We have provided all of the relevant information, but it is definitely possible not to have a chair or to compromise on some of the decorations! There are different levels of *kallah* chairs and flower arrangements. We did not mention prices in this section because they are very dependent on the design, size, type, etc. and **there is no limit...** Our recommendation is to decide on a budget for this in advance, and then choose from the existing options based on your limit. The following are general guidelines and necessary information that could help you when choosing a theme. It is a good idea to start thinking about this topic early and not wait for the last minute, when you may end up settling for something expensive that you didn't really want.

First of all, contact a few places and ask for real photos of work that **they have personally done** at previous weddings. Afterward, compare the examples and decide on a theme, style, and price. There are natural flower arrangements and artificial ones. The difference between them can reach thousands of shekels, and the appearance doesn't always justify the cost. After studying the topic with very professional photographers, we have learned that in many cases, **synthetic chair arrangements actually look a lot better in the photos!** So before you pull out your wallet - think again!

**Artificial flowers** - Check that the flowers won't be dusty from previous events. There are two types - **fabric** and **silicon**. The difference in price is not significant, but the silicon looks much more realistic, and is usually cleaner because it isn't harmed at all by water. Even when you are using artificial, it is possible to integrate a bit of natural greenery to create a fresher look, and this is usually included in the price.

**Natural flowers** - Check that the flowers are going to be fresh and weren't prepared the day before, especially when they need to be delivered from one city to another, and especially-especially when the wedding is in the summer. In this case, reconsider whether you actually should be paying for natural flowers at all.

What else?



- Bouquet for the kallah** - Take into account that you won't actually be holding the bouquet for very long, only during the outdoor photo shoot (if you are doing one), photos at the beginning, Yichud room photos, and at the end. However, it is recommended to choose a bouquet with a wrapped handle and not with stems, because stems are not comfortable to hold and could get the dress dirty, in addition to making the bouquet significantly heavier. In kallah bouquets as well, there are different levels of natural ones, and there are artificial ones, some of which look simply amazing!  
Check out a few different designs (from photos) and choose from them. Make sure that the color of the bouquet isn't too pale; a ball-shaped style is usually more comfortable to hold, but on the other hand is less versatile in photos.  
Some families have a custom for the mother of the *chattan* to bring or pay for the kallah's bouquet. The decision is her choice, of course.
- Curtain** - There are different shades of curtains (white, cream, pearl, other). It is recommended to match the shade to the color of the dress, and then to match the flowers too. Check that the curtain is wide enough to cover the entire wall behind the chair (including the air conditioning compressors...).
- Background lighting** - Especially if you are not adding a chandelier, or the ceiling is high and the lighting is far from the chair, it is a good idea to add background lighting (projectors on both sides of the curtain, from behind). According to the conditions onsite, it may be a good idea to turn them off when the *chattan* comes for the *bedekin*, because a lot of people will be standing nearby at that point and the lamps are very hot. They could easily melt a dress or pants that touches them (especially if they do not have LED bulbs).
- Pillars** - Depends on the overall design theme. Check that they don't make the scene look too overloaded and don't crowd the area near the chair either.
- Chandelier** - Adds a lot of beauty, but in halls with low ceilings and strong lighting, a chandelier is less significant. Today, there are many design elements that make it pretty superfluous.
- Tables** - Many catering services provide jugs / candles / flowers for the tables, and this is included in the overall price. Check what you receive as part of your deal with them. The hall might have their own decorative pieces as well. There are Gmachs that lend out gorgeous items.
- Decorations at the hall** - It is possible to add more and more, infinitely. Being pressed for time - less is more, and everyone should do what they think is feasible and appropriate. Remember that the point of the wedding is to build a home, not a decorative garden...

**Tips:**

- The platform should be broad relative to the chair, so that there will be room to stand next to it during the photos and the *bedekin*.
- If you use a double platform (in terms of its height), it is important to make sure that there is a comfortable step to ascend (wedding dress, elderly grandmothers...).
- It is not a good idea to choose a completely light-colored design, because the dress is also light, and the result isn't always very nice, especially in photos. Therefore, sometimes incorporating another color helps (even just a bit of green. The designer will know what to do.).
- If you are adding a white carpet in front of the chair, if you are also going to scatter dried flower petals on it as decorations, they are going to be smashed and will stain the carpet. Therefore, it is better to use white or at least light-colored flower petals.
- Set up all of the elements and the design a bit early, to save time and avoid problems (instability, electricity shutting off, etc.). Consider rolling out the carpet only at the end, so that it doesn't get too dirty from being stepped on.

**Very important!** Settle as many details as possible in a clear, written contract:

- Price** - Total cost for absolutely everything, including delivery, assembly, additions, etc.
- Equipment** - Flowers, jugs, pillars, lighting, chandelier, platforms, curtain, and everything you chose.
- Time** - What time exactly everything will be set up and ready. What time the chair will be taken away (there are those who don't leave it until the end of the wedding, so that it doesn't get ruined by the children), and what time the design is disassembled (photos at the end?).

**Gmachs / Funds**

There are many Gmachs that lend out supplies for the event itself: benchers, prayer cards, flowers, tablecloths, dishes, *mechitzahs*, professional cooking and heating supplies, furniture, props for dancing with the kallah, *chuppah* equipment,

and more. You can find lists of such Gmachs in phone books, local community directories, and more. Using a Gmach can save you thousands of shekels. **Request:** You reserved items from a Gmach, but then decided to cancel? Please let them know, so that others can enjoy the items instead!

In addition, there are many funds and organizations where you can obtain *nedunya* items or even stipends and grants (the expenses can really add up) for wedding expenses, especially when there are extraordinary circumstances. To obtain them, you will usually be asked to send: the original wedding invitation, a photocopy of the *chattan* and/or *kallah* and/or parents' ID cards + appendix, details of the circumstances (no. of children in the family, income and expenses, etc.), a recommendation from the Rosh Yeshiva / community rabbi, bank account details / address for sending a check.

## Wedding dress

Finding a wedding dress can be a relatively easy and simple project, but it can also be a tiring and exhausting project that takes a very long time. Therefore, it is a good idea to start as soon as possible and to finish as early as you can.

You can obtain a wedding dress in one of three ways:

- Gmach** - There are special Gmachs that rent out wedding dresses for very cheap or even for a nominal fee. These can be found in phone books.  
Average cost: up to NIS 2000.
- Bridal salon** - The costs of the dresses vary, due to the styles and materials and according to the number of times that they have been worn. Many salons have a Gmach section (dresses from the salon that were moved to the Gmach section at some point and are rented out for lower prices).  
Average cost: Between NIS 3000 - 5000.
- Sewing** - Many salons can sew a dress according to your choice and personal preferences.  
Average cost: NIS 5000 and up.

**Accompanying jewelry and accessories** - (tiara, jewelry, veil, etc.) You can usually receive these from the place where you got the dress (for an added cost).

**Veil** - There are several different designs. There are thicker and more transparent ones, and of course, opaque. Ask the salon.

**Shoes** - You must decide the height of the heel on the shoe you want to wear, and based on that, you can make alterations to the dress. *Kallah* shoes can be rented from the salon, or bought at a store (average price for *kallah* shoes at a shoe store is NIS 100). Some choose to wear white athletic shoes (or even colorful ones); this is obviously very comfortable and especially suitable for broad dresses, since they won't even be seen.

**Final measurements** - About a week before the wedding, you will have to come to the salon again for final measurements. **Book a date in advance in an organized manner.**

>>> **Very important!** Wear the exact same articles of clothing that you will be wearing at the wedding, in order to avoid changing the exact measurements...

### Tips:

- A "soft underskirt" is highly recommended, so that people can approach you comfortably during the course of the evening.
- It is a good idea to wear the shoulder straps in an X, so that the weight is distributed evenly and everything will be more stable.
- When choosing a hairstyle, think of the practical aspects and not only about how it looks. There are hairstyles that are uncomfortable, especially in the summer.
- To spare yourself a headache and deliberations at the salon, choose the color you prefer in advance (white, pearl, ivory, cream), and the general style of the dress (applique, beaded, volume, how many added elements, etc.). Of course, if you like many different styles, you don't need to decide in advance, and you will probably find something pretty easily anyway.

## Buying Furniture

Very important information about buying/renting an apartment and furniture appears in the **Kol Chattan** booklet ("brings her into his home") and in the **Kol Mitzhalot** booklet ("Ba'al HaMeah..."). It is recommended of course for the *kallah* to read those sections too, especially regarding checking the furniture.

**Marriage Registration**

Registering for marriage is a purely administrative process that has no halachic significance. You will need your marriage certificate later to present to banks, government offices, and more. In order to register for marriage, you must go to a recognized Rabbinate office, and in most places, it is not necessary for both the *chattan* and the *kallah* to be present, and they usually ask for:

- Confirmation letter from the *kallah* teacher.
- Confirmation letter stating that you are single, for both spouses (from the office of the yeshiva/seminar).
- Name of the *Mesader Kiddushin*.
- Witnesses testifying that the *chattan/kallah* are single (especially outside the city).
- ID cards of the *chattan* and *kallah*.
- Marriage certificates of the parents (if one of them was born abroad).
- Three passport photos for each spouse.
- Registration fee (usually about NIS 200 per spouse).

**Please note:** The Ministry of Religious Services requires couples to register for marriage from up to 90 days before the wedding and **no later than 45 days before the wedding**. If you missed the date, you will have to receive special approval, fill out forms, etc. - in short, it's a headache.

Marriage registration can be done **at offices of the Chief Rabbinate in every city**. The fee is NIS 700, and yeshiva students are entitled to a 40% discount. The following is an abridged list, based on the full list of Rabbinate offices in cities and councils:

City:	Address:	Telephone:	Fax:	City:	Address:	Telephone:	Fax:
Ofakim	9 Eli Cohen St.	08-992-3073	08-992-3108	Haifa	60 Herzl St.	04-864-1178	04-866-7623
Elad	13 Shamai St.	03-909-6601	03-909-6602	Tiberias	32 Hagalil St.	04-672-0993	04-672-3182
Ashdod	1 Henrietta Szold	08-863-0630	08-852-3021	Jerusalem	12 Hachavazelet St.	02-621-4888	02-621-4862
Be'er Sheva	8 Hatalmud St.	08-620-4000	09-620-4000	Petach Tikva	37 Hovevei Zion St.	03-905-1528	03-911-3625
Beit Shemesh	1 Abba Naamat St.	02-991-1361	02-991-7714	Tzfat	74 Hapalmach St.	04-697-1633	04-697-1633
Beitar Illit	4 Ba'al Hatanya St.	02-580-8889	02-572-5561	Rehovot	2 Goldberg St.	08-936-2541	08-936-2665
Bnei Brak	12 Rabbi Akiva St.	03-578-1133	03-579-5212	Rechasim	12 Hagefen St.	04-984-6989	04-866-1528

In addition, there are private offices authorized to register marriage, such as: **Badatz Eidah Chareidit**, 26 Strauss Street (Zupnick buildings), Jerusalem, between 11:15 - 13:30 and from 17:15 - 19:00. The registration fee is NIS 420 (combined). Telephone: 02-6252808 There are additional Batei Din throughout the country that can also register marriages. After the wedding, it is necessary for the *Mesader Kiddushin* to fill out a confirmation form stating that he officiated at the *chuppah*, and including the names of the witnesses and a photocopy of the *ketubah*, etc. - as requested by the marriage registrar. These must be sent by fax to the registrar's office, and after a few days, you can go to pick up the marriage certificate.

Afterward, you must go to the Interior Ministry **with your marriage certificate**; the *kallah* needs to get a new ID card (new photo [with her hair covered]) and the *chattan* needs to get a new ID card appendix. The *kallah* can go alone and obtain a new appendix for the *chattan*, but after the wedding, both the *chattan* and *kallah* are entitled to receive a new ID card for free, so why not. In some cities, when you say that you are a *chattan* and *kallah* at the entrance, you will be sent to the front of the line. You can use this opportunity to also change your official address. Consider whether you should change it to the address of your new apartment (especially if you are renting), or perhaps leave your parents' address. Government offices coordinate this information, and changing it later is a complicated procedure that takes time. The ramifications are regarding where mail will be sent, property tax discounts, elections, residency, and more.

**Confirmation that you are single:** In the event that you are registering for marriage at a local council or Rabbinate office that is not in the city where you live, you may be asked to present confirmation that you are single. In order to obtain this confirmation letter, you must approach the Rabbinate in the city where you live [as stated on your ID card from the past six months] and bring your parents' marriage certificate, pay a NIS 135 fee, and two witnesses who are not related to you or to each other, who will testify that you are not currently married (even if you were previously married). For yeshiva and seminar students, it is enough to bring written confirmation from the office of your current place of study stating that you are not currently married. In exchange, you will receive a letter of confirmation that you are single, which you can bring in order to register your marriage at any Rabbinate office you choose. If you are foreign residents, you must bring a letter confirming that you are single from the Rabbinate presiding in your city of origin.

**P.S.**

To conclude, based on recommendations and requests from educators and marriage counselors, we are adding the following paragraph. It is common for feelings, deliberations, questions, and concerns to arise during the engagement period. This is a natural and not at all rare phenomenon, and the most important thing under such circumstances is - **not to suppress!** Everyone knows an experienced and responsible counselor or therapist (definitely not a friend!) with whom you can clarify feelings, questions, and doubts if they arise.

It is also possible to consult anonymously with professional organizations who operate on a volunteer basis and provide qualified, discreet advice. The most highly recommended of them is called **Yesichena**, which has dozens of professional, experienced therapists and counselors (all of whom are yeshiva/seminar graduates from our sector) who are accustomed to hearing these types of questions. They can be contacted by email at [y@yeshichena.com](mailto:y@yeshichena.com) and of course via the **Yesichena website**. There are also additional well-known organizations that provide anonymous consultations by phone.

## Stage Four /// **Before the Wedding**

### **Organizing and cleaning the apartment**

When you receive an apartment, it is usually necessary to clean it, and even when you've been given the apartment "clean and tidy," it might not actually meet your standards. Therefore, the cleaning should be done as soon as the rental period begins, so that you can start putting things into the apartment without pressure. Rabbis have strongly recommended that the *kallah* shouldn't work hard to clean and organize everything on her own, especially not lifting heavy objects, but rather should ask her sisters and/or friends to do it. In some cases, it is necessary to *kasher* some of the utensils or surfaces in the kitchen. If it isn't too urgent - it is best not to go crazy, and to push it off until after the wedding (during the *Sheva Brachot* week, you probably won't want to cook anything *fleishik* anyway).

It is a good idea to buy basic groceries for the first day at home. The rest can be bought as needed. Think about the night of the wedding as well, and buy a cake or something. Many couples report that after the wedding, the photos, and everything, they came home and suddenly discovered that they were famished... Ask yourself: What will we eat tomorrow morning? For lunch? (From then onward - life begins...) The following is a list of optional groceries: ☒☒☒

<input type="checkbox"/> Bread	<input type="checkbox"/> Coffee	<input type="checkbox"/> Canned goods	<input type="checkbox"/> Eggs	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic disposables
<input type="checkbox"/> Cakes / cookies	<input type="checkbox"/> Tea	<input type="checkbox"/> Fruit	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic spices	<input type="checkbox"/> Salt
<input type="checkbox"/> Milk - yoghurt - cheese - cottage cheese	<input type="checkbox"/> Chocolate milk	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetables	<input type="checkbox"/> Cereal	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice in the freezer
<input type="checkbox"/> Salads/spreads	<input type="checkbox"/> Sugar	<input type="checkbox"/> Drinks	<input type="checkbox"/> Snacks	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

**Tips:**

- Buying? Take photos of the meters for the water, gas, and electricity as soon as you enter the apartment, before doing any work there. Close the payments with the previous tenant.
- Renting? Take pictures and document the exact state of the entire apartment, paint, flaws, etc. - and save yourselves arguments the day the contract ends..
- On behalf of postal workers everywhere - **please!** Write your last name clearly on your mailbox (in general - check if you have one).
- High-quality packages from bedding should be kept somewhere in order to store them at the end of the season, when moving, etc.
- There is no reason to organize the entire apartment perfectly now - you will probably change everything according to your needs.
- Make sure to *toivel* / *kasher* utensils that you will want to start using immediately. The rest of the dishes will wait patiently until the *Sheva Brachot* are over.
- Avoid crowding the apartment too much with things - especially if it is a small space. Leave room to breathe - some of the gifts can even be stored elsewhere (parents, storage, etc.). Check whether there is a shared storage area in the building, and if you can store things in it.

- If you considered painting the apartment from the start - it might be better to do it after the wedding. (You'll be more familiar with the apartment, you'll work more calmly and thoroughly [and together], and you won't have to enter an apartment that smells like a construction site.)

## Supplies For the Wedding

### Contents of the suitcase:

- Booklet of blessings for the *chuppah* in large print + list of honors.
- Special wipes for cleaning stains quickly.
- Black and white thread + needle + safety pins.
- Tylenol, band-aids, first aid kit.
- Glitter. Wheat. Ashes. (For various customs)
- Spare *ketubah* (3 versions) + pen.
- Spare white tie.
- *Tefillah* for the *kallah* (white leather)
- Candle holders for the *chuppah* + candles + lighter.
- Silver disposable *kiddush* cup + plate + corkscrew.
- White wine (highly recommended, in case it spills).
- **Thin** *chattan* glass for breaking (mandatory!! to prevent danger).

B"H there are many other Gmachs that provide all of the necessary supplies for the *chuppah* and wedding, check the directories. This will spare you the headache. Every one of these things is small on its own, but **try to imagine the moment when you really need it - and you don't have it...** It is recommended to open the suitcase beforehand at home and make sure that all of the items are included. If not - notify the person responsible for the Gmach before the wedding.

In addition, the *kallah's* side needs to bring:

- Key to the apartment.** So it isn't left in a different city.
- Names for davening.** During the *chuppah* and after the wedding.
- Kallah's bouquet.** So that it isn't forgotten at home or in the photographer's car.
- Tallit.** Did you buy one as a gift? If not - let him know, so that he brings one!
- Chuppah supplies suitcase as aforementioned.** Or your own supplies.
- Cash** (a lot of it... details in *Kol Mitzhalot*).

## What else?

- Someone to accompany the *kallah*.** On the wedding day. Although the *kallah* is usually surrounded by family members, friends, and various professionals.
- Tie *tzitzit* for the *tallit* -** For the *chattan*, that you bought for the *chuppah*. Check if he has any special customs.
- Gift for the parents.** There is a nice custom for the *kallah* to give a gift (and letter) to her parents, who raised her and brought her to this point in her life, and for her siblings, for not interfering too much.
- Car for the *kallah* on the wedding day.** Decorated or simple. Make sure there is room for the dress (all of it...). It needs to show up early, and not delay.
- Basket for the *kallah*.** If the Gmach doesn't provide one, you can prepare bags with marshmallows / candies to throw at the wedding.
- Planner.** During the engagement period (and maybe in general), it is highly recommended to keep a planner with reminders and tasks. This will help prevent forgetting important things.
- Teshuvah.** The day of the *chuppah* is like Yom Kippur. Make sure to leave free time for the spiritual elements of the day, not just the technical preparations.
- Tefillah.** Prepare a list of your friends' names who are still unmarried, and anyone who needs prayers.
- Tzedakah.** On this big, auspicious day. There are those who have the custom of donating a meal for the poor through a tzedakah organization (based on the story of Rabbi Akiva's daughter).

## Bag for the Yichud room

**Almost mandatory** - prepare a bag for the Yichud room that has:  **your cell phone** (if you suddenly need something or someone)  **Important!** Everything the *kallah* needs for herself (for example, Tylenol, or a different pill if needed...)  
 Makeup supplies for repairs  Wipes for removing makeup  Hairbrush  
 Key to the apartment  Mint candies/gum for those who fasted.

Prepare the bag in advance, and while you are still at home, appoint one of your siblings to be responsible for putting it in the Yichud room right before the *chuppah* ends.

## The Big Day

It is highly recommended for this day to be completely free of technical arrangements (except for the necessary preparations, of course), and this will only happen if you make an effort to finish everything in advance. The night before, it is recommended to go to sleep early [at least to try...]; the wedding day is long and exhausting, and it will help to be alert. The day of the *chuppah* is a very holy day, and more than anything else - it is important to make time for davening quietly and calmly. If you are going to the Kotel - it is recommended to go very early in the morning, and in general, the recommendation for *kallahs* is not to leave the house at all on the day of the wedding.

It is good to prepare a clear list of everything that needs to be done on this day, and hang it in a prominent location in the house. Everything that has been done can be checked off, so that you can see exactly what is left. It is a good idea to make sure the family members eat a light meal during the day (and the *kallah*, if she isn't fasting). Before you leave, make sure you haven't forgotten any of the things you need to take to the hall (as listed above). If the wedding is in a distant city and you have the option - it is recommended to go there in the morning and do everything there - in an empty apartment, home of family members (on condition that there aren't many children around), or a suite at a hotel (coordinated with the makeup artist and hairstylist, of course).

At the wedding itself, you, the *kallah*, should try to **be happy and look happy**. Make sure to smile and greet all of the family members and important guests warmly, and to smile at the photographers too (sometimes the *kallah* doesn't notice or pay attention to this, and it doesn't look very great in the photos later).

Think about it: if they came to the wedding, they have dedicated time, effort, and perhaps money on travel and a babysitter in order to participate. Don't they deserve a big smile from you, and to feel like you are happy to see them? Treat the hall as if it was your home - as if you are the hostess and these are your guests. Treat each one of the participants warmly, even if you don't know them (yet...you never know). Even at the end, during the family photos, it is important to remember to smile and look alert, and to radiate joy and happiness.

\* \* \*

# Mazel tov!

**Translated and published in collaboration with:**



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For your convenience, the following is a list of all of the common purchases and errands, in chronological order and by subject. Put it in your purse and mark off each task as you finish it.

<b>General to-do list - Cut and save</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Tefillah	<input type="checkbox"/> Someone to accompany the <i>kallah</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Cosmetician	<input type="checkbox"/> Sheitel	<input type="checkbox"/> Venue
<input type="checkbox"/> Tzedakah	<input type="checkbox"/> Names for davening	<input type="checkbox"/> Find an apartment	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Kallah's</i> chair	<input type="checkbox"/> Hair and Makeup
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Tie <i>tzitzit</i> for the <i>tallit</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Organize the apartment	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Kallah's</i> bouquet	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographer
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Gift for the parents	<input type="checkbox"/> Support funds	<input type="checkbox"/> Clothes shopping	<input type="checkbox"/> Band
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Bag for the Yichud room.	<input type="checkbox"/> Final measurements	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Nedunya</i> purchases	<input type="checkbox"/> Jewelry
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Teshuvah</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Supplies for the wedding	<input type="checkbox"/> Write invitations	<input type="checkbox"/> Gifts for the <i>Chattan</i>
			<input type="checkbox"/> Send out invitations	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Kallah</i> teacher
			<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> Bridal dress

**Guide booklets from Gmach Birkat Yisrael:**

- **Kol Chattan** - All of the technical arrangements for a *chattan* during the engagement period
- **Kol Kallah** - All of the technical arrangements for a *kallah* during the engagement period
- **Kol Mitzhalot** - Technical tips and advice for parents of the *chattan* and *kallah*

**Please note:**

The files are constantly updated according to recommendations based on common experiences; to receive the latest edition of this booklet or others

- contact us by email. We are always happy to hear your feedback, comments, lessons, and other ideas:

[birkatisrael1@gmail.com](mailto:birkatisrael1@gmail.com)

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