

TOP 12: Trends in NEPA Weddings

1. **FOOD STATIONS.** In lieu of more formal sit-down dinners, couples are opting for a variety of serving stations to allow their guests to mingle, move around, select their food, and go back for seconds. Popular choices are carving stations with a variety of meats; mashtini stations with mashed potatoes and a selection of toppings, ranging from goat cheese to horseradish; seafood stations (a little pricey, but popular), stir-fry stations, and pasta stations.
2. **CANDY BUFFETS.** At both showers and weddings, a table is set up with large containers of various candies, which can be scooped up and taken home in festive containers such as fancy Chinese take-out boxes.
3. **DESSERT BARS.** Although most couples still cut a fancy cake, there is a trend to having a large dessert bar featuring miniature pastries, chocolate-covered strawberries, flaming desserts, and a chocolate fountain. This allows guests to pick their own caloric disasters!
4. **OUTDOOR VENUES.** Many couples are seeking outdoor sites for both the wedding ceremony and the reception.
5. **CHOREOGRAPHED FIRST DANCE.** Dance lessons are in demand as couples no longer choose to sway back and forth to the music, preferring choreography to their chosen song, complete with big flourishes like dips and twirls.
6. **INITIAL CAKE TOPPERS.** Classic bride and groom toppers will never completely disappear, and fresh flowers are also popular, but at the moment jeweled sets of their couples' initials are in demand.
7. **DOING AWAY WITH THE BOUQUET AND GARTER TOSS.** Couples are treating weddings more like parties these days, and many of the old traditions are going by the wayside. Imagine--even the Chicken Dance and Electric Slide are no longer musts on the dance floor.



8. **COFFEE TABLE ALBUMS.** Done in a more photojournalist style than traditional wedding albums, these feature matte finishes and a combination of color and black-and-white photographs.
9. **DISPLAY SHOWERS.** Lots of girls have decided to do away with the time-consuming task of opening each gift while guests look on. Professionals now take the unwrapped gifts and set up an expansive display while guests are dining or playing games.
10. **PHOTO MACHINES.** An instant photo booth is set up at the reception, allowing guests to sit for pictures.
11. **CIGAR BARS.** For a sophisticated touch, some couples opt for cigar bars at the reception. Some even hire a professional to wrap cigars on the spot!
12. **BLACK DRESSES.** These have been popular for bridesmaids for a long time, and the trend does not seem to be changing. Some brides, however, eschew long, formal black gowns in favor of flirty cocktail dresses with the attendants can wear again.