

Planning for your wedding?



Here's a checklist for everything you need!

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6 to 12 months before the wedding

- ☐ Determine budget.
- ☐ Decide type of wedding: formal, semi-formal or informal.
- ☐ Choose ceremony location.
- ☐ Discuss dates with clergy or officiant.
- ☐ Choose attendants.
- ☐ Select gown style.
- ☐ Select veil style.
- ☐ Select attendants' apparel.
- ☐ Compile bride's and groom's invitation list.
- ☐ Select reception site.
- ☐ Select caterer.
- ☐ Select wedding planner.
- ☐ Plan details of reception.
- ☐ Select photographer.
- ☐ Have engagement photos taken.
- ☐ Select music for reception.
- ☐ Select videographer.
- ☐ Select florist.
- ☐ Discuss gown colors and styles with mothers of bride and groom.
- ☐ If composing own vows, inform officiant.

4 to 6 months before wedding

- ☐ Select men's formalwear and arrange for final fitting a few days before wedding.
- ☐ Select ceremony musicians and music.
- ☐ Make honeymoon plans.
- ☐ Print map to include with invitations.
- ☐ Reserve hotel rooms for out-of-town guests.
- ☐ Have physical exams and update immunizations.
- ☐ Buy wedding rings and order

- engraving.
- ☐ Finalize invitation list with families.
- ☐ Visit hairdresser and manicurist; make wedding day appointments for bridal party.
- ☐ Order all printed items, including invitations, thank-you notes, programs and napkins.
- ☐ Order needed utensils, which may include engraved cake knife, personalized champagne glasses and a box for monetary gifts.

2 to 4 months before wedding

- ☐ Reserve rental items: candelabra, arches, canopy, lines, etc.
- ☐ Arrange rehearsal dinner.
- ☐ Shop for trousseau and apparel for honeymoon and prenuptial parties.
- ☐ Reserve limousine, carriage, trolley or coach transportation.
- ☐ Review florist's arrangements and finalize order.
- ☐ Buy attendants' gifts.
- ☐ Experiment with hairstyle and makeup changes.
- ☐ Buy bride's and attendants' shoes; send to be dyed.
- ☐ Order wedding and groom's cakes.
- ☐ Plan the ceremony and select music for the service.
- ☐ You should receive your invitations at least three months before the wedding; send them out immediately. Don't forget to request a reply date of at least five weeks before the wedding.
- ☐ Register for wedding gifts at the stores of your choice.
- ☐ Decide on reception menu and select beverage options; decide if there will be an open bar.

1 to 2 months before wedding

- ☐ Final bridal fitting.

- ☐ Final attendants' fittings.
- ☐ Confirm honeymoon reservations.
- ☐ Select reception decorations: balloons, candles, table favors, etc.
- ☐ Select ceremony accessories: unity candle, ring pillow, guest book, etc.
- ☐ Select personal accessories: handbag, garter, engraved goblets, guest mementos, etc.
- ☐ Finalize arrangements with officiant.
- ☐ Finalize arrangements with musicians taking part in the ceremony.
- ☐ Arrange bridesmaids' lunch or brunch.
- ☐ Finalize arrangements with photographer and videographer. Discuss any special shots you want.
- ☐ Finalize arrangements with musicians, disc jockey and master of ceremonies for the reception.
- ☐ Finalize arrangements with florist, specifying time and place of delivery.
- ☐ Finalize transportation arrangements.
- ☐ Make sure all clothes for bridesmaids, groomsmen and ushers will be ready on time and that they have the appropriate accessories.
- ☐ Apply for marriage license.
- ☐ Formally inform employer of leave of absence.

2 weeks before wedding

- ☐ Invite guests to rehearsal dinner.
- ☐ Move your belongings into new home.
- ☐ Review reception seating and place cards.
- ☐ Confirm lodging for out-of-town guests.
- ☐ Record gifts as you receive them and write thank-you notes.
- ☐ Arrange for gown cleaning and bouquet preservation after the wedding.

- ☐ Finalize arrangements with hall and caterer, confirming final number of guests (preferably in writing).
- ☐ Finalize arrangements with baker regarding cake.
- ☐ Pick up wedding dress and bridesmaids' dresses.
- ☐ Groom or best man arranges final fittings for men in the wedding party.
- ☐ Prepare envelopes with payments for the officiant, reception hall, musicians, disc jockey, etc.
- ☐ Ask officiant when he/she would like to receive your marriage license.
- ☐ Begin packing for honeymoon.

1 week before wedding

- ☐ Pick up wedding rings and check engravings and sizes.
- ☐ Final consultations with florist, musicians, photographer, videographer, etc.
- ☐ If you are having a rehearsal, present attendants with gifts.
- ☐ Men have final fitting two to three days before the wedding and pick up formalwear and shoes.
- ☐ Make a wedding day schedule and give everyone copies at the rehearsal dinner.
- ☐ Relax the day before; keep personal appointments; finish honeymoon packing.

Day of the wedding

- ☐ Give payment envelopes to the best man, who will deliver them after the ceremony and at the reception.
- ☐ Go to hairdresser, makeup artist and manicurist.
- ☐ Make sure the car keys, wedding rings, marriage license, keys to the new house, airplane tickets, hotel confirmations and honeymoon spending money are all assembled.
- ☐ Arrange for your car, your going-away outfits and your luggage to be delivered to the reception hall.
- ☐ Arrange for someone to bring tissues, lipstick and any other personal items to the reception.
- ☐ Be dressed and ready for the picture-taking two hours before the ceremony or according to the arrangements made with your photographer.
- ☐ Relax and enjoy your big day.