

A Checklist of Wedding Day Details



6 - 12 Months Before the Wedding

- Announce your engagement.
- Choose a wedding date.
- Decide with your fiancé the type of wedding ceremony you want.
- Plan a budget.
- Decide on a location for the wedding ceremony and reception based on your budget. Reserve the location.
- Shop for your wedding gown. Keep in mind the time of day for your ceremony when choosing a style.
- Decide on your wedding color scheme.
- Choose your honor attendants and other wedding party members.
- Select your bridesmaids' dresses. Take along your maid of honor to act as a model and to help make decisions on dresses.
- Make your guest list. Decide whether to invite all guests to the wedding. You may choose to have a small wedding and invite more friends and family to the reception.
- Plan your reception. Remember that your budget will be the determining factor in how many guests to invite to the reception.
- Select and book your caterer.
- Register your wedding gifts.
- Choose a florist and photographer.
- Have black-and-white photographs taken for engagement and wedding announcements.
- Decide on the type of musical entertainment for the reception and book musicians, singer or disc jockey.
- Reserve limousine service for the wedding.

3 - 6 Months Before the Wedding

- Order invitations, thank-you notes and wedding announcements.
- Meet with your clergyman to discuss the ceremony and to make any other preparations required by your church.
- Plan your honeymoon and make all necessary arrangements (travel, lodging, etc.)
- Select your wedding rings and have them engraved.
- Plan the music for your ceremony. Your church's music director or organist can assist you with this.
- Assist the mother of the bride and the mother of the groom in selecting their dresses.
- Make appointments for wedding-day pampering with your hairstylist, makeup artist and manicurist. Appointments should be early in the morning.
- Rehearsal dinner plans should be made at this time by the groom's family.

2 - 3 Months Before the Wedding

- Choose the wedding attire for the groom and groomsmen.
- Address the wedding invitations and announcements.
- The groom and his family plan the bachelor dinner.
- Plan the bridesmaids' luncheon.
- Purchase gifts for the wedding attendants. The groom should purchase gifts for his groomsmen.
- Select friends and relatives not participating in the wedding ceremony to perform other tasks such as pouring punch, cutting cake and registering guests at the reception.

1 - 3 Months Before the Wedding

- Mail invitations.
- Submit wedding announcements and photos to local newspapers.
- Purchase gift for the groom/bride.
- Write thank-you notes as gifts arrive.
- Display wedding gifts.
- Make arrangements for lodging for out-of-town guests and attendants.
- Secure marriage license.
- Have final fitting of your wedding and bridesmaids' dresses.
- Purchase going-away outfit.
- Should your honeymoon be overseas, verify that both your passports are still valid. Check if a visa is required to enter a foreign country or if you need any immunization shots.

1 Day - 1 Week Before the Wedding

- Confirm details with caterer, photographer, limousine service and musicians.
- Confirm details for honeymoon. Pick up tickets and purchase travelers' checks.
- Experiment with makeup to be used on wedding day.
- Pack for the honeymoon.
- Pick up wedding gown and check for proper fit.
- Give the clergyman's fee to the best man, along with delivery instructions.
- Arrange to move belongings to new home if necessary.

Day of the Wedding

- Attend a wedding breakfast or have breakfast at home.
- Begin dressing early enough so that you don't feel rushed — about 1 1/2 to 2 hours before the ceremony.
- Bring the ring to ceremony.
- Wedding party should also be dressed about 1 1/2 hours prior to ceremony if photographs will be taken before the wedding begins.

