

Wedding Day Countdown

12+ months before

- Purchase a wedding organizer.
- Determine your wedding style. Formal or informal? Indoors or out? Day or night?
- Draw up a preliminary budget.
- Choose an engagement ring with fiancé if he has not already done so.
- Set the date.

Nine to eleven months before

- Hire a wedding consultant, if you plan to use one.
- Research and select the ceremony and reception locations.
- Determine who will officiate the ceremony and discuss any pre-marriage requirements.
- Draft an initial guest list.
- Start assembling the full names and addresses of guests.
- Designate attendants.
- Choose color scheme.
- Check catering facilities if at a club or hotel.
- Scout and select a caterer, if necessary.
- Start interviewing photographers and videographers.
- Start looking around for a florist.
- Begin shopping for gown and headpiece (it's never too early).
- Announce engagement in the newspaper, if desired.
- Select and send out save-the-date cards, if applicable.
- Start browsing for bridesmaid's dresses.
- Start planning the honeymoon.
- Set up gift registry.
- Arrange accommodations for out-of-town guests.

Six to nine months before

- Purchase invitations and personal stationary.
- Make sure contracts are signed with the vendors and deposits are paid.
- Order bridal gown and schedule first fitting.
- Select wedding-date shoes and other accessories.
- Order bridesmaid's dresses and schedule fittings.
- Book the honeymoon.
- Set dates for bridal showers and bachelor/bachelorette parties.
- Make appointments for your hair and makeup.

Four to six months before

- Set up the rehearsal with your officiant.
- Make final arrangements for ceremony for vows, readings, and music.
- Book the rehearsal dinner site and decide on the

menu (or ask the hosts to do so).

- Do the same for the morning-after brunch.
- Reserve hotel room for the night of the wedding.
- Arrange day-of transportation.
- Have both mothers coordinate with one another and choose their dresses.
- Complete guest list. Give names and addresses to calligrapher.
- Have your fiancé select and reserve the mens' wedding attire.
- Check requirements for your marriage license.
- Shop for wedding rings.
- Check travel requirements for honeymoon destination. Apply for passports, if needed.

Two to four months before

- Meet with attorney to draw up pre-nuptial agreement, if having one.
- Order wedding rings.
- Finalize all décor for ceremony and reception.
- Reserve any rental items that might be needed (tables, chairs, linens, tents, etc).
- Order favors for guests.
- Shop for lingerie and honeymoon wardrobe.

Two months before

- Purchase stamps and send out invitations. They should be mailed four to six weeks prior to the wedding (don't forget to include directions to the ceremony and receptions sites).
- Finalize all details with the caterer, photographer, florist, reception manager, musicians, etc.
- Arrange any wedding-weekend activities you're planning.
- Order the wedding cake, if not already supplied.
- Have menus, programs, and escort cards printed.
- Purchase a guest book.
- Update registry and add items, if needed.

Six weeks before

- Send invitations for rehearsal dinner and wedding brunch.
- Do a trial-run with your hair stylist and makeup artists.
- Pick up wedding rings.

One month before

- Have final fitting for your gown.
- Have final fitting for bridal attendants' gowns.
- Have a formal bridal portrait taken.
- Write vows, if writing your own.
- Designate someone to distribute programs at the ceremony.

- Get marriage license.
- Purchase gifts for attendants.
- Purchase gift for fiancé, if exchanging.
- Keep a list of all gifts received for thank-you notes.
- Make sure you have all accessories (toasting goblets, ring pillow, garter, candles, etc).

Two Weeks

- Attend to business and legal details. Get necessary forms to change names on Social Security card, driver's license, insurance and medical plans, bank accounts.
- Have your hair cut.
- Contact any guests that have not responded.
- Prepare wedding announcement for the newspaper.
- Confirm accommodations for out-of-town guests.
- Create a seating chart and give final count to reception manager.
- Confirm honeymoon reservations.
- Assemble gift bags, if giving them out.

One Week

- Confirm final details with all vendors.
- Arrange for dress to be picked up or delivered.
- Break in shoes.
- Give photographer and videographer list of must-take pictures, and your playlist to musicians.
- Pack for the honeymoon.

- Organize vendor payments and other fees in envelopes to distribute the day-of.

Day before

- Ask someone trustworthy to bring your marriage license to the ceremony.
- Deliver gift bags, if you have them.
- Get manicure and pedicure.
- Distribute attendant gifts.
- Give rings to best man.
- Go to bed early and try to get a good night's sleep.

Day of

- Eat breakfast.
- Have luggage delivered to hotel, if needed.
- Get hair and makeup done.
- Dress.
- Switch engagement ring to right hand.
- Breathe.
- Enjoy it!

After the wedding

- Send thank-you notes.
- Submit name change documents.
- Order wedding photographs.
- Have gown dry-cleaned and preserved.