

Your Wedding Checklist

Details make the wedding, but they can also be overwhelming. So we've put together this checklist to guide you through the planning stages of your wedding and make sure you don't miss a beat on those important details!

Upon engagement

- Set the wedding date!
- Determine your wedding budget
- Meet with those sharing wedding expenses to discuss financial responsibilities
- Decide (with fiancé) on wedding style
- Reserve ceremony and reception sites
- Choose attendants
- Begin making a guest list

9 months to 1 year before

- Order a memory album and begin writing down your memories and saving mementos
- Send save the date cards to everyone on your guest list
- Register for wedding gifts
- Meet with your officiant

Meet with and reserve:

- Caterer
- Wedding cake baker
- Florist
- Ceremony musicians
- Reception band or DJ
- Photographer/videographer

Shop for and order:

- Wedding gown
- Headpiece and veil
- Undergarments
- Jewelry
- Shoes

6 months before

- Have your engagement photos taken
- Submit engagement photo and announcement to your local newspaper
- Decide on a honeymoon location and make all necessary reservations

Shop for and order bridesmaids' attire:

- Dresses
- Shoes
- Accessories

- Finalize men's formal wear and place orders
- Attend pre-wedding parties and showers
- Purchase a supply of thank you notes and keep up with writing them
- Experiment with hairstyles
- Make appointments for wedding-day hairstyles and beauty treatments

4 months before

- Arrange for and attend gown fittings
- Finalize the guest list
- Reserve accommodations for guests
- Select and order wedding bands

Select and order wedding stationery:

- Invitations
- Announcements
- Envelopes and seals
- Response cards
- Reception cards
- Informal cards
- Thank you notes

Select and order ceremony necessities:

- Unity candle
- Aisle runner
- Pew bows
- Ring bearer pillow
- Flower girl basket
- Garter
- Guest book and pen

Select and order reception necessities:

- Place cards
- Napkins
- Matchbooks or notepads
- Favors
- Toasting glasses
- Serving set
- Cake top
- Decorations
- Centerpieces

3 months before

- Begin addressing and assembling invitations
- Have an assembled invitation weighed to determine postage; purchase postage
- Arrange for wedding-day transportation
- Plan the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner
- Purchase rehearsal dinner invitations
- Finalize honeymoon plans and confirm all reservations and paperwork needed

2 months before

Finalize arrangements with wedding vendors:

- Caterer
- Wedding cake baker
- Florist
- Ceremony musicians
- Reception band or DJ
- Photographer/videographer
- Mail invitations to arrive six weeks before the wedding date

- Keep track of response cards received
- Finalize ceremony order with officiant
- Order wedding programs
- Purchase gifts for attendants, parents, hostesses, etc.
- Purchase wedding gift for fiancé
- Work on reception seating arrangement
- Prepare place cards
- Address and stamp wedding announcements to be mailed the day of the wedding

Mail rehearsal dinner invitations

Take care of financial and legal details

- Joint bank account
- Insurance policies and beneficiaries
- Wills
- Prenuptial agreement (if desired)
- Gather forms for making name change
- Write wedding vows, toasts and speeches

1 month before

- Get your marriage license
- "Rehearse" your wedding hairstyle
- Have final fittings for wedding gowns
- Remind bridesmaids to attend gown fittings
- Keep track of wedding gifts received and thank you notes written

Confirm duties with wedding helpers

- Personal attendant
- Day-of coordinators
- Setup crew and decorators
- Readers
- Flower pinner
- Guest book attendant
- Gift table attendant
- Host and hostess
- Punch, cake and coffee servers
- Cleanup crew

1 week before

- Confirm all services and reservations
- Confirm arrangements with sites
- Deliver final guest count to caterer and site
- Pack for your wedding night
- Pack items for the ceremony and reception sites
- Pack for your honeymoon
- Pick up wedding gown; check for fit
- Have groom pick up formal wear; check for fit
- Have attendants pick up attire and formal wear; check for fit
- Assemble a wedding-day emergency kit
- Get plenty of rest so you'll look your best!