

## Wedding Planning Calendar

### Nine to Twelve Months Before

- Set an initial budget.
- Select a wedding date and time.
- Announce your engagement in the newspaper.
- Determine the type of wedding you want (day/night, indoor/outdoor, formal/casual).
- Research availability of reception locations.
- Select and book your reception location, or get a tent if that is what you decided upon.
- Find a caterer if not already provided by the reception facility.
- Research availability of ceremony locations, if not included with your reception site.
- Select and book your ceremony location.
- Determine who will officiate at the ceremony, if not provided with the ceremony location.
- Determine how many guests you wish to invite.
- Set aside blocks of hotel/motel rooms for out-of-town guests.
- Secure a band or DJ because they can get booked quickly..
- Decide if you want a bridal party, and if so, then how large.
- Start to research your bridal gowns.
- Start to research the grooms formal wear/tuxedo.
- Start to research bridesmaids' dresses.
- Start to research formal wear for the groomsmen.
- Compare and find a photographer.
- Compare and find a videographer.
- Find local florists and set appointments to look at their work.
- Be sure that you get contracts from all the professionals you choose.

- Create a bridal registry, and/or an engagement registry.
  - Visit bridal shows.
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#### **Six to Nine Months Before**

- Start compiling the guest list (inform your families to do the same).
  - Select the attendants for your wedding party.
  - Purchase the bride's gown.
  - Purchase the groom's tuxedo.
  - Purchase bridesmaids' dresses.
  - Arrange for your groomsmen to be measured and reserve the tuxedos. TIP: If your groomsmen do not live close to the formal wear shop you choose, tell them to go to a local shop - most shops will measure them as a courtesy.
  - Shop for the wedding dress, headpiece, veil, and other accessories.
  - Start planning for your honeymoon, research you destinations. Will it be a Caribbean Island, the South Pacific, Hawaii, a cruise, or a trip through Europe. Whatever, you decide research thoroughly.
  - Choose and reserve your florist.
  - Order the wedding cake, if not provided by the caterer or reception hall.
  - The parents of the groom should begin to arrange the Rehearsal Dinner, and reserve a restaurant or make other arrangements.
  - Arrange for transportation for the wedding. Limousines, Horse & Carriage, vans, etc.
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#### **Four to Six Months Before**

- Check requirements for blood test and marriage license in your state.
- Shop for wedding rings.
- Select and order the invitations and stationery.
- Make sure all the men's attire has been ordered.
- Decide where to live after the wedding.

- Complete the guest lists.
  - Begin shopping for trousseau.
  - Send your engagement announcement to the newspaper.
  - Inform mothers to select their dresses.
  - Select and order the men's attire.
  - Finalize honeymoon details and make the necessary reservations.
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### **Two to Four Months Before**

- Confirm the menu and catering details with the caterer.
  - Prepare all maps and directions for the ceremony and reception.
  - Select your wedding rings.
  - Buy a wedding guest book.
  - Set the dates and times with the officiant for the rehearsal.
  - Plan the bridesmaids' luncheon and any other parties.
  - Determine your resources for designing and printing the program for the ceremony.
  - Finalize the florist details, photographer, videographer, musicians, etc.
  - Arrange the necessary accommodations for out-of-town guests.
  - Plan a rehearsal dinner, time and place.
  - Confirm the wedding cake details with the baker.
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### **Six to Eight Weeks Before**

- Mail invitations and announcements.
- Prepare a portrait for the newspaper. Check your local newspaper for details and timing.
- Set appointment with photographer for your formal bridal portrait.
- Select gifts for all your attendants.

- Set appointments with any hairdressers and/or makeup artists.
  - Hire the limousine or other forms of transportation for the wedding.
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#### **Four to Six Weeks Before**

- Decide what your menu is going to be for the reception. Estimate the expected number of guests.
  - Buy a gift for the groom.
  - Schedule a final fitting for your gown so it can be ready for your formal bridal portrait.
  - Purchase a going away outfit.
  - Pick up your wedding rings.
  - Purchase (borrow) all wedding accessories such as the ring pillow, goblets, garter belt, candles, etc.
  - Confirm florist details and delivery times.
  - Plan the seating for the reception as well as other details for the ceremony and reception.
  - Start writing placement cards.
  - Make sure all bridesmaids' attire has been fitted.
  - Buy a gift for the bride.
  - Choose the music for your ceremony, first dance, parent dances, and party and give information to band, dj, or other musicians.
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#### **Two Weeks Before**

- Make arrangements to have your wedding gifts moved to your new home.
- Handle business and legal details such as name changes, address changes, etc.
- Prepare the wedding announcement for the newspaper.
- Reconfirm your guests' accommodations.
- Make sure all clothing and accessories for you and the bridal party are ready.

- Get your marriage license and any blood tests which are needed.
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### **One Week Before**

- Review any seating details with the ushers.
  - Make sure all wedding attire fits.
  - Finalize the seating arrangements.
  - Reconfirm your honeymoon reservations. Ensure you have any necessary plane tickets.
  - Start packing for your honeymoon.
  - Call any guests who have not responded yet.
  - Finish all the place cards for the reception.
  - Review all the final details with your photographer, videographer, etc.
  - Give a final head count to the caterer.
  - Confirm the availability of the musicians and vocalists.
  - Delegate responsibilities to reliable individuals on your wedding day.
  - Wrap and present the wedding party gifts.
  - Finalize your rehearsal dinner arrangements or other plans.
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### **One Day Before**

- Get a manicure or massage to relax yourself.
  - Stay with your family the night before and sleep early.
  - Review and rehearse all the details of your participants.
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### **The Big Day**

- Make sure the best man and maid of honor sign the wedding certificate.
- Allow yourself plenty of time to get dressed.
- Be sure to eat properly.

- Rest and relax with a good bath.
- Prepare for your hairdresser and makeup appointments.
- Enjoy your wonderful wedding and cherish each and every moment!