

Wedding Planning Time Line

One Year Before Immediately following your engagement :

1. Announce your engagement to friends and family.
2. Set a tentative date for your wedding.
3. Determine your guests list from both sides of the family.
4. Determine the total budget you will have to work hiring a bridal consultant to help you plan.
5. Complete a budget planning worksheet (see Budget Worksheet attachment).
6. Make certain the budget available is appropriate for the intended guest list (# of guests being invited).
7. Attend some Bridal Expos for all the latest trends and get helpful tips from vendors.
8. Determine if your date is available for the desired ceremony location.
9. Determine if your date is available for the desired reception location.
10. Determine that date is doable for immediate family members and important wedding party members (i.e. Best Man, Maid of Honor).
11. Select your bridal party and extend ask for their participation in your wedding "wedding assistant" for the day of your wedding and discuss.

Important events they will all need to attend. . Immediate "to do's":

1. Search for a reception location and secure your date with a deposit.
2. Choose a caterer if one is not available at your reception location.
3. Decide where to book your rehearsal dinner location.
4. Choose and reserve your officiant/ Check with your officiant's schedule for the rehearsal.
5. Shop for the wedding dress - It can take several months for your dress to arrive and complete fittings.
6. After you've found your dress, schedule your fittings and delivery date.
7. Search and Book the following vendors:
 - o Photographer
 - o Entertainment
 - o Cake
 - o Event Planner/Designer (if you so choose)

9 Months Before :

1. Begin the search for your transportation, flowers, rentals and stationery.
2. Speak to a travel agent about honeymoon destinations and update your passports and vaccinations if necessary.
3. Start finalizing the guest list and gathering addresses.
4. Choose a Bridal Gift Registry and register at your favorite stores.
5. Finalize all wedding vendors and secure your date by putting down deposits.
6. Once you've chosen your wedding photographer, schedule your engagement photos to be taken and submit your announcement to the newspaper.
7. Finalize the plans for your honeymoon.
8. Reserve accommodations for out-of-town guests.
9. Create a website if you choose to do so.
10. Begin the search for Bridesmaids Dresses.

6 Months Before :

1. Place Order for bridesmaids Dresses.
2. Schedule wedding dress fittings.
3. Prepare all maps and directions for the ceremony and reception.
4. Select and order your Invitations including thank you cards.
5. Select and order groom's and attendants' attire.
6. Meet with your florist and determine wedding party flowers, ceremony/altar pieces, and reception centerpieces.
7. Plan your bridesmaids' luncheon and any other parties.
8. Begin doing the research for your marriage license and blood tests.
9. Meet with both sets of parents to coordinate their attire.

4 Months Before :

1. Meet with all your wedding vendors to finalize any orders and reservations.
2. Schedule a tasting with your caterer.
3. Pick out and Order wedding rings.
4. Arrange for final dress fittings.
5. Purchase wedding guest book.
6. Order your wedding favors, bridal party gifts and other wedding accessories (champagne glasses, ring bearer pillow, cake knife, etc.).
7. Determine music lists for both the ceremony and reception.
8. If you have not hired an event planner, research and hire a "day of coordinator" to execute your ceremony and reception details; allowing you to truly be a "guest" at your own wedding!

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2 Months Before :

1. Address and send out your invitations. Include maps and directions as well as information regarding the accommodations.
2. Make appointment with your beautician for wedding day hair styles for you and your bridal party.
3. Set up any other appointments for pre-wedding cuts, colors or perms.
4. Make appointments for you and your bridal party to get manicures, pedicures, massages, spa treatments, etc. a few days prior to the wedding.
5. Choose a make-up artist and schedule a trial.
6. Start gathering your RSVPs.
7. Finalize dates for your last-minute dress fittings.
8. Purchase bridal party gifts and gift for your fiancé.
9. Meet with your "day of coordinator" or event planner to cover details you will need help with.
10. Schedule wedding ceremony rehearsal.

1 Month Before :

1. Finalize and confirm all ceremony & reception plans.
2. Finalize rehearsal dinner details.
3. Go over song lists and requests with your band or DJ.
4. Give your photographer a "must-have list" - a list of posed photographs you want taken (NO MORE than 10-12 posed pictures at ceremony location)
5. Confirm when final payments need to be made to vendors.
6. Call guests who have not responded.
7. Draw up seating arrangements for the reception if doing assigned seats.
8. Have a "practice" session with the hairstylists and make-up artists you will use on your wedding day.
9. Start taking care of business such as name changes, address changes, etc.

2-3 Weeks Before :

1. Pick up wedding rings.
2. Confirm all arrival times with vendors.
3. Confirm hotel arrangements for out-of-town guests.
4. Have your final dress fitting.
5. Make a date with your fiancé to get your marriage license and blood tests.

1 Week Before :

1. Give the caterer your final guest count.
2. Pack your bags for the honeymoon.
3. Arrange for the pick-up of your bridal attire.
4. Have final fittings for groom and groomsmen and schedule the return of the groom's tuxedo and determine who will return the rented tuxedos.
5. Ask your bridal party to help with post-wedding tasks.
6. Give gifts to your wedding party, family and fiancé privately, or at the rehearsal dinner.
7. Make arrangements for your wedding gifts to be brought to your "new" home by someone from the reception.

1-2 Days Before :

1. Get a manicure and/or pedicure.
2. Confirm all arrangements for the honeymoon.
3. Compile a list of all your wedding vendors with phone numbers to ensure a stress-free wedding.
4. Make payment envelopes for each vendor and give them to your wedding day coordinator to take care of at the wedding.
5. Arrange a get-away car for after the reception to include all your honeymoon essentials (luggage, tickets, identification, passports, etc.).
6. Put together a bridal emergency kit for your wedding day including stockings, sewing kit, safety pins, etc.
7. Attend your rehearsal dinner.
8. Get plenty of rest before the big day! Drink lots of water!

Your Wedding Day!

1. Get your hair and make-up done early.
2. Make sure you get plenty to eat and drink a lot of water.
3. Remember the rings and marriage license.
4. Relax and enjoy yourself after all the months of planning and preparation!