

Wedding Planning Timeline

NINE MONTHS BEFORE OR SOONER

- Arrange get-together for families to meet
- Announce engagement in newspapers
- Discuss budget with each other and families
- Pick a date (with alternatives so that you can be flexible with venues)
- Engagement photo sitting
- Hire wedding consultant
- Select attendants and ask them to be in your wedding
- Compile guest list
- Book site for ceremony
- Book site for reception
- Book officiant
- Hire caterer
- Hire musicians for ceremony
- Hire band or DJ for ceremony
- Order dress, veil and headpiece

SIX TO NINE MONTHS BEFORE

- Hire photographer
- Hire videographer
- Book florist
- Select and order attendants dresses and accessories
- Reserve rental equipment, including tent, tables, chairs, linens, china and other desired items
- Meet with caterer to plan menu and schedule tasting
- Order invitations and other wedding stationary
- Book Calligrapher
- Mail save the date cards to out-of-town guest
- If having an at-home wedding, begin any home improvements and/or landscaping work
- Hold block of hotel rooms for out-of-town guest
- Reserve room for wedding night
- Look into potential honeymoon destinations and travel arrangements
- If traveling abroad, update passports, visas and any other required travel documents and inquire about necessary immunizations
- Register for wedding gifts

FOUR TO SIX MONTHS BEFORE

- Make final honeymoon reservations
- Purchase/order/make favors
- Schedule time for ceremony rehearsal
- Plan rehearsal dinner
- Purchase or reserve tux or suit for groom and groomsman
- Meet with florist and decide on arrangements and bouquets
- Order wedding cake and grooms cake
- Buy/order/make gifts for bridal party
- Purchase bridal shoes and other accessories
- Have invitations addressed

TWO TO FOUR MONTHS BEFORE

- Mail hotel, transportation, and area attractions information to out-of-town guest
- Plan post wedding-brunch
- Investigate local requirements for obtaining marriage license
- Book/arrange for transportation for bride, groom, attendants, and immediate family on wedding day
- Meet with officiant to discuss service
- If writing your own vows, begin doing so now
- Select readings/songs for ceremony; ask those you want to read/perform if they will do the honor
- Make selections for ceremony music
- Choose songs for the major highlights of reception
- Buy appropriate undergarments and hosiery for wedding gowns, and bring to first fitting
- Purchase wedding rings
- Select gift for groom (and bride)
- Select thank you cards for parents
- Purchase going away outfit
- Send invitations
- Inquire about newspapers time requirements and content guideline for wedding announcements
- Sit for wedding portrait
- Do trial runs with makeup and hairstylist and schedule appointments

FOUR TO SIX WEEKS BEFORE

- Make arrangements of blood test (if required by state)
- Obtain marriage license (check with your cities clerks office)
- Create/order ceremony programs
- Plan bridesmaid's luncheon
- Put together welcome baskets for out-of-town guest
- Send wedding announcements to newspapers
- Give list of songs you want, and don't want to band or DJ
- Have final dress fitting
- Start arranging seating plan
- Pick up wedding rings

TWO WEEKS BEFORE

- Provide caterer with final head count
- Finalize seating plan; write place cards, or give calligrapher the information and materials to do so
- Sent shot list to photographer and videographer
- Compose for toast for rehearsal dinner and wedding reception
- Make detailed schedule if the wedding reception events (times for cocktails, first dance, dinner, cake cutting, etc.) give to applicable service providers
- Break in shoes and scuff bottoms

ONE WEEK BEFORE

- Pick up dress
- Pick up tuxes
- Confirm reservations for wedding night and honeymoon
- Obtain crisp bills from bank for gratuities; put in labeled envelopes and seal
- Organize final payments for service providers
- Pack for honeymoon
- Purchase travelers checks for honeymoon
- Make a list of everything you need to bring to wedding and gather all the necessary items together
- Host bridesmaids' luncheon (day before to accommodate out-of-town guest)
- Confirm details with service providers
- Arrange for mail to be held at post office
- Instruct stores where you're registered to hold deliveries

ONE DAY BEFORE

- Drop off welcome baskets for out-of-town guest at hotels
- Get manicure and pedicure
- Have rehearsal; hand out gifts to wedding party if you have not yet done so
- Assign tasks and duties to wedding party for next day
- Give attendants anything they need to execute duties
- Attend rehearsal dinner
- Bride and groom exchange gifts

