

Countdown Checklist

There's plenty to do before saying "I do". So we've put together this handy 12 month checklist to help you ease on down the path to the perfect wedding day. Before you know it, you'll be easing on down the aisle.

12 MONTHS AHEAD...

- Determine type of wedding you desire, size, setting, formal or casual.
- Select a wedding date and time
- Establish a tentative budget and who will cover what expenses.
- Determine the size and approximate guest count
- Check with your clergy regarding any pre-marital requirements
- Reserve location for your ceremony and reception
- Begin the more exact planning
- Book wedding consultant
- Book your photographer

9 MONTHS AHEAD...

- Start shopping for the perfect gown and bridesmaids dresses
- Select wedding party and get measurements of both bridesmaids and groomsmen
- Select definite color scheme and style of wedding attire
- Select and book videographer, ceremony and reception entertainment and caterer
- Reserve any rental needs

6 MONTHS AHEAD...

- Select and book florist, balloonist and décor
- Special order wedding gown if necessary and order bridesmaids dresses
- Choose your headpiece and accessories
- Select travel agent and make honeymoon plans
- Make transportation arrangements
- Newspaper announcements should be made
- Select locations and register for gifts
- Have thank you notes ready to keep current on your thank you notes
- Shop for wedding rings and bands
- Shop for men's formalwear
- Check for guest accommodation packaging

5 MONTHS AHEAD...

- Order invitations and all other stationery
- Finalize guest list
- Help both mothers select and coordinate their dresses
- Ensure all bridal attire has been ordered and make appointment for first fittings

4 MONTHS AHEAD...

- Shop for bridal lingerie or trousseau
- Check for marriage requirement laws and blood testing should be done
- Select bakery and order wedding cake
- Shoot engagement photos

2 to 3 MONTHS AHEAD...

- Reserve men's attire
- Order favors
- Second fitting scheduled
- Select calligraphy expert for addressing your invitations
- Confirm ceremony details
- Plan wedding party celebrations
- Reserve beverage caterer if separate service is needed
- Finalize honeymoon plans, apply for passports if necessary
- Book accommodation for out-of-town guests
- Mail out of state and out of country invitations
- Purchase other accessories; cake knife, goblets, ring pillows and candles
- Confirm details with photographer, cater, florist, videographer, and all other wedding professionals involved
- Make appointment with make-up artist and hair dresser
- Have hair cut and/or highlighted and make sure you do a trial run with your hair dresser incorporating the hair accessories you'll be wearing
- Select rehearsal dinner location

1 MONTH TO GO...

- Final dress fitting
- Formal bridal portraits scheduled
- Attendants fitting for attire
- Complete trousseau shopping bring to last fitting including shoes
- Purchase bridal party gifts and groomsmen gifts
- Have attendants party
- Attend showers and pre-wedding celebrations
- Finalize rehearsal dinner plans
- Draw up seating plan and create place cards

2 WEEKS TO GO...

- Write your toast for the reception
- Put together out of towners gift baskets and deliver a few days before they arrive

ONE WEEK TO GO...

- Pick up your wedding dress, bridesmaids dresses and accessories
- Break in your wedding shoes
- Confirm all details and any changes that had been made
- Pack for your Honeymoon-Confirm all details

ONE DAY BEFORE WEDDING...

- Get manicure and pedicure
- Confirm transportation details
- Prepare tip envelopes and choose a responsible person to distribute after the wedding
- Rehearse the ceremony
- Enjoy your rehearsal dinner
- Relax and go to bed early

THE BIG DAY!!!!

- Eat a good breakfast
- Go over your schedule for the day
- Deliver your suitcases to hotel, check in early if you can to relax and not be rushed
- Try to take some time to relax and enjoy your day!
- Remember to eat at the Reception