



Wedding Checklist

You are engaged and there are so many things to do. Each couple has unique needs and wants. The time line from engagement to your wedding day is specific to you. This checklist offers suggestions on the things to do soon after you are engaged through your wedding. The timing depends on you, but with careful planning everything will come together to make your wedding day the day you have always dreamed of! If you choose to hire a wedding planner, most of these details will be taken care of for you.

YOU JUST GOT ENGAGED:

- Select a date and a time for your wedding
- Purchase engagement rings (if you have not already done so)
- Create a preliminary budget
- Determine the theme or style of your wedding
- Hire a wedding consultant if you choose to use one
- Make your guest list
- Select and reserve the site for your ceremony
- Determine who will officiate at the ceremony and set up time to meet
- Choose and ask your attendants to celebrate this day with you
- Plan your reception - facility, menu, drink
- Hire a caterer
- Hire your florist
- Hire your videographer
- Hire your photographer - make an appointment for engagement photos
- Hire your baker (wedding cake)
- Determine the type of music you want - then hire a DJ, orchestra, or band
- Order your bridal gown and bridesmaids' dresses (if having a flower girl, order her dress too)
- Order tuxedos or suits for groom and groomsmen (if having a ring bearer, order his tuxedo too)
- Offer to help both mothers select their dresses
- Begin planning transportation for guests and wedding party
- Decide location for your honeymoon - make the travel arrangements (see Honeymoon Registry on Links page)

3-6 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING:

- Pick out and order wedding rings
- Select and order your invitations and thank you notes
- Find out what the requirements are for a marriage license in your state
- If needed for license, make an appointment for a physical examination
- Plan your honeymoon
- Sign up for your bridal registry
- Hire your hair dresser (for you and your bridal party)
- Hire your makeup artist (for you and your bridal party)
- Plan the details of your decorations (flowers, colors, balloons etc.)
- Select the music/song list for your wedding ceremony and reception
- Select gifts for maid of honor, your attendants, the groom, your mother, anyone else you want to thank for their help
- Reserve any rental equipment you may need (chairs, tables)
- Plan your rehearsal dinner; make reservations

1-2 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING:

- Address and mail wedding invitations
- Go get the marriage license together
- Order your cake
- Keep track of guest responses for final head count and seating arrangements
- Purchase Guest book
- Record gifts and write thank you notes as you receive the gifts.
- Assist out of town guests with travel arrangements (see Travel link on Links page)
- Reserve limousine or transportation for you and your wedding party
- Order wedding favors and decorations
- Prepare place cards for reception
- Arrange for fitting times for bridal party
- Plan the bridal shower
- Plan bridesmaid luncheon
- Plan bachelor party
- Confirm your arrangements and payment details with your:
 - Photographer
 - Caterer
 - Venue for both your wedding ceremony and reception
 - Videographer
 - D.J. or music choice
 - Officiator
 - Transportation
 - Hair appointment
 - Makeup artist
 - Baker
 - Florist
- Determine seating arrangements for the reception

- Create a list of travel items for your honeymoon.
- Select your ushers.
- Confirm hotel reservations for out of town guests

THE WEEK BEFORE YOUR WEDDING:

- Pick up bridal gowns, shoes, and tuxedos
- Have a spa day
- Make sure transportation has been arranged for out of town guests if needed
- Confirm honeymoon travel reservations
- Pack your things for your honeymoon. Don't forget your passport, money (foreign currency if traveling out of the country), identification, and airline tickets.
- If you have not hired a wedding coordinator, ask someone to help coordinate the ceremony and reception including ensuring the delivery of the cake, flowers, set up of tables etc.

1-2 DAYS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING:

- Rehearsal and rehearsal dinner
- Get a manicure and pedicure (massage whatever makes you feel good)
- Prepare final payments for each professional. Ask someone to ensure these are paid per the contracts.

YOUR WEDDING DAY:

- Eat breakfast!
- Go to your hair and makeup appointments
- Make sure you and your wedding party arrive about 2 hour before the ceremony to dress and take care of any last minute details
- Most importantly relax! This is your day

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER:

- Announce your engagement in the newspaper
- Take dance lessons (choreography for your first dance)
- Consult with an attorney for any legal matters
- If traveling out of the country, update immunizations and make sure you have a passport
- Talk about where you will live. Decide what to do with your current residence if moving.
- Change mailing address if moving
- Open joint bank accounts
- If you are changing your name, order name change kit
- Arrange for mail, home, and any pet care while away on your honeymoon
- Change your phone message - you are married now!
- Find out how to preserve your bouquet