

TIMETABLE

Careful planning will enable you to truly enjoy every moment of your wedding day. Arrangements for a large formal wedding ideally begin at least 8-12 months in advance. However, many beautiful weddings are put together in considerably less time. Follow a timetable, read articles in this guide, and allow your wedding professionals to assist you. It can be much more fun when you share the planning with your fiancé, your families, and your attendants.

twelve months

- ___ Begin interviewing potential reception locations
- ___ Select a wedding coordinator

six to twelve months

- ___ Create a budget and discuss sharing of expenses
- ___ What type of wedding? Formal semi-formal informal
- ___ Choose location of ceremony
- ___ Compile combined families guest list
- ___ Contract your reception location
- ___ Interview caterers, sample foods, decide on menu
- ___ Plan all details of reception
- ___ Shop and select gown, veil and accessories
- ___ Select attendants' apparel
- ___ Interview and select a photographer
- ___ Interview and select a florist
- ___ Schedule engagement photo session
- ___ Interview and select a videographer
- ___ Select ceremony musicians and music
- ___ Select type of music for reception
- ___ Consult your travel agent about honeymoon plans

four to six months

- ___ Select and order men's formal wear
- ___ Order invitations, personal stationery and wedding programs
- ___ Professionally prepare and print map (include in invitation)
- ___ Secure reservations for honeymoon
- ___ Shop for wedding rings
- ___ Register gift preferences with one or more bridal registries
- ___ Decide on new living arrangement
- ___ Begin to plan home decorating, colors, etc.
- ___ Schedule physical exams and update immunizations
- ___ Reserve limousine, carriage, trolley or coach transportation
- ___ Select make-up artist
- ___ Reserve hotel rooms for out-of-town guests

two to four months

- ___ Reserve rental items; candelabra, arches, linens, etc.
- ___ Send local newspaper wedding announcement/ photograph
- ___ Shop for trousseau wardrobe for honeymoon, parties

two to four months continued

- ___ Arrange professional addressing of invitations
- ___ Plan attendants' gifts; gifts for each other
- ___ Review floral and decorating arrangements, finalize
- ___ Experiment with hairstyles and make-up with veil/ hat
- ___ Buy all wedding party shoes at the same time, send to dyer
- ___ Sample and order wedding and groom's cakes

one to two months

- ___ Mail invitations four to six weeks before wedding
- ___ Send activity information to out-of-town guests from Convention Bureau and/or local Chamber of Commerce
- ___ Confirm all professional services in writing
- ___ Final gown fitting
- ___ Final attendants' fitting
- ___ Make reservations for rehearsal dinner
- ___ Schedule bridal portrait (remember make-up artist)
- ___ Arrange ice sculptures
- ___ Make reservations for bridesmaid's brunch/ luncheon
- ___ Confirm honeymoon reservations, select luggage
- ___ Select reception decorations; balloons, candies, etc.
- ___ Select ceremony accessories; unity candle, ring pillow, etc.
- ___ Secure marriage license.
- ___ Schedule appointments for hair stylist, facial, massage, pedicure and manicure, make-up artist

two weeks

- ___ Record gifts as you receive them, write thank you notes
- ___ Invite wedding party and guests to rehearsal dinner
- ___ Confirm time and wedding rehearsal schedule with everyone
- ___ Review reception seating; order place cards from calligrapher
- ___ Confirm wedding party transportation and arrival times
- ___ Confirm out-of-town guests lodging with reserved hotels
- ___ Schedule caterer for gift opening party
- ___ Arrange for professional gown and bouquet preservation
- ___ Arrange name/ address changes on bank account, credit cards, driver's license, social security and utilities
- ___ Move your personal and mutual belongings to new home

one to two weeks

- ___ Pick up wedding rings, check sizes and engravings
- ___ Final consultations, wedding consultant, florist, musicians, photographer, video, decorators, rental company, etc.
- ___ Final guest count to reception facility and caterer
- ___ Remind men to pick up formal wear/ shoes and check for fit
- ___ Complete a wedding day schedule, including schedule from photographer, give everyone a copy at rehearsal dinner
- ___ Relax the day before; keep personal appointments, finish honeymoon packing
- ___ Your planning is complete. Your day will be wonderful!