

Wedding Checklist

Customize this list to suit your dream wedding and family circumstances.

Nine to Twelve Months Before

- Determine the type of wedding you want, size, degree of formality, setting.
- Select a wedding date and time.
- Notify your clergymember and reserve date and time for wedding and rehearsal.
- Set a tentative budget.
- Decide how expenses will be shared.
- Shop together for wedding rings.
- Determine the size of the guest list.
- Plan reception and book reception location. (Note: This should be booked as soon as the wedding date is set to ensure availability.)
- Select wedding consultant/planner.
- Select and book caterer.
- Select and book photographer.
- Select and book videographer.
- Select and book entertainment.
- Select and book transportation for wedding day.
- Compile names and addresses of your guests.
- Decide on your colour scheme.
- Select wedding attendants, yours and his.
- Determine sizes for all attendants.
- Choose your dress and headpiece.
- Schedule fittings and delivery date.
- Choose bridesmaids' dresses and accessories.
- Start planning for your honeymoon.
- Discuss where you will live after the wedding.
- Choose music and musicians/soloists for the ceremony and reception.

Six to Nine Months Before

- Announce your engagement in the newspaper.

- Register your preferences at the bridal registries of your choice.
- Maintain records of all gifts received and send thank you notes immediately upon receipt of your gifts.
- Select florist and/or balloonist and discuss colour schemes.
- Begin shopping for men's wedding attire.

Four to Six Months Before

- Start health and fitness program.
- Order invitations and other related stationery needs.
- Complete your guest list.
- Help both mothers coordinate and select their dresses.
- Ensure that all bridal attire has been ordered.
- Check blood test and marriage license requirements.
- Experiment with hair style and cut.
- Select baker and order wedding cake, groom's cake and mints.

Two to Three Months Before

- Choose the men's wedding attire and reserve the right sizes.
- Start addressing invitations and announcements.
- Purchase accessories such as toasting goblets, ring pillow, garter, candles, etc.
- Confirm all details with your hired professionals.
- Confirm ceremony details with your officiant.
- Arrange rehearsal details.
- Plan rehearsal dinner.
- Plan attendants' parties.
- Choose responsible person to attend your guest book.

- Make appointment with your hairdresser.
- Arrange accommodations for out of town attendants and guests.
- Finalize honeymoon plans.

One Month Before

- Finish addressing invitations and mail them four weeks before the wedding.
- Get blood test and marriage license.
- Have your final dress fitting.
- Have formal bridal portrait done.
- Have final fitting for wedding attendants.
- Purchase gifts for wedding participants.
- Purchase gift for fiancé.
- Have attendants' parties.
- Purchase going-away outfit.
- Ensure that your accessories are in order – toasting goblets, garter, candles, ring pillow, etc.
- Finalize rehearsal dinner details.
- Make a calendar of events for your wedding day.
- Draw a map to direct guests to the ceremony and reception sites if necessary.
- Place liquor orders.

Two Weeks Before

- Finish addressing announcements to be mailed on your wedding day.
- Contact guests who have not responded.
- Pick up the wedding rings and make sure they fit properly and that engraved inscriptions are correct.
- Meet with your photographer and give him/her a list of special pictures you want taken.
- Meet with videographer and give him/her a list of special events or people you want in the video.
- Meet with the entertainer and give him/her a list of the music to be played

during special events such as bouquet tossing, garter tossing, dollar dance, etc.

- Continue writing thank you notes for gifts received.

One Week Before

- Provide the caterer with the total guest count and confirm all details.
- Provide your wedding party and out of town guests with timetables and maps if necessary for the rehearsal dinner, ceremony and reception.
- Review details on last minute arrangements and timetables with all service companies.
- Plan seating arrangements, if used.
- Confirm all honeymoon reservations and accommodations, pick up tickets and travellers cheques.
- Discuss the details of the reception with your host and hostess.
- Assign tasks to be done on the wedding day to your wedding party.
- Practice applying makeup and styling your hair and determine the amount of time needed to do this on your wedding day.
- Make sure you have your marriage license.
- Pick up wedding attire and make sure everything fits properly.
- Keep writing thank you notes for gifts received.
- Pack your suitcase for your honeymoon.
- Rehearse wedding ceremony with all participants in attendance.
- Attend rehearsal dinner.
- Give the best man the officiator's fee and instruct him to deliver it on the day of the wedding.
- Get a good night's sleep the night before your wedding day.

On the Wedding Day

- Remain calm and try to relax.

- Don't forget to bring the wedding rings and your marriage license.
- Check with florist to ensure that flowers will be delivered on time.
- Apply makeup and style your hair slowly.
- Start dressing 1 ½ hours before the ceremony.
- If pictures will be taken before the ceremony, the entire wedding party should be dressed and ready about two hours before the ceremony.
- Mail the wedding announcements.
- Have music start twenty minutes before the ceremony begins.
- Have guests seated as they arrive.
- Groom's parents should be seated five minutes before the ceremony begins.
- The bride's mother should be seated immediately before the processional, before the aisle runner is rolled out.

After the Wedding

- Write and mail all thank you notes as soon as possible.
- Take care of business and legal affairs (change name if necessary on records and legal documents) as soon as possible.