

wedding *Timetable*

12 to 24 months

- Select engagement ring with fiancé, if he has not already
- Announce engagement
- Schedule engagement photography
- Call local newspaper for guidelines on publishing engagement pictures
- Discuss budget with groom & families
- Interview & hire a bridal consultant
- Meet with ceremony officiant – check date & time availability
- Meet with reception facilities – check date & time availability
- Select wedding date & time – consider work schedules & holidays
- Determine the type of wedding – formal with a seated dinner, or less formal with a buffet
- Decide on color scheme, wedding theme, or style
- Choose & reserve wedding & reception sites
- Compile guest list – have fiancé do the same
- Determine size of final guest list
- Compile names, addresses, & phone numbers of the guest list
- Select bridal and groom attendants
- Shop for your bridal gown & accessories
- Choose bridesmaids' dresses & accessories
- Interview & hire reception/ceremony musicians, photographer, videographer, caterer, & florist (check references & the Better Business Bureau)
- Interview & hire a premarital counselor
- Sign up for required classes with church (if necessary)

6 to 12 months

- Plan ceremony & reception music
- Register with bridal registry of your choice remember there are options for honeymoon registries & home registries too!
- Select & order the men's attire with fiancé
- Discuss gown colors & styles with both mothers
- Interview & hire makeover professionals – hairstylist, makeup artist, & nail technician. Check if they have a mobile service to come to you the day of the wedding – include mothers and attendants too!

4 to 6 months

- Decide on new living arrangements
- Order invitations, announcements, & personal stationery (order at least 25 extras)
- Prepare easy-to-follow maps & directions to include with your invitations
- Meet with caterer to confirm the menu, beverage service, & all details
- Select a baker to create your wedding cake
- Buy wedding rings & order engraving
- Shop for trousseau
- Meet with fiancé's parents to plan & reserve rehearsal dinner site
- Arrange accommodations for out-of-town attendants
- Reserve a block of rooms for out-of-town guests, have several price options
- Visit florist with color swatches to finalize the selection of flowers
- Design & print ceremony program
- Select honeymoon destination & confirm plans with travel agent (normally fiancé handles this)
- Order passports, if needed
- Decide on wedding favors
- Interview & hire a company to handle releases for ceremony (white doves, butterflies, bubbles, or balloons)

2 to 4 months

- Compile list of people you would like invited to bridal shower
- Address wedding invitations – consider a professional calligrapher
- Reserve rental items
- Purchase gifts for attendants & each other



- Reserve transportation for you, fiancé, the wedding party, & parents
- Experiment with hairstyles and makeup changes
- Purchase bride's & attendants' shoes – decide on exact color & have dyed, if necessary

1 to 2 months

- Mail invitations six to eight weeks prior to wedding (check the weight of your invitation before mailing it with all of your enclosures, maps, etc., to make sure invitations are not delivered to guests with "postage due," or returned for lack of adequate postage)
- Confirm all details & arrangements with all contracted services
- Pick up wedding rings, check engraving, & sizes
- Call insurance agent to include wedding rings in policy
- Finalize plans with photographer, & give them a list of pictures you would like to have taken
- Arrange final fitting for gown & bridesmaids' gowns
- Make plans to get marriage license with fiancé
- Schedule all final details & quantities of appointments needed with makeover professionals
- Pamper yourself with a massage & a facial
- Arrange bridal luncheon
- Select reception decorations: flowers, centerpieces, rental items, balloons, & favors
- Purchase ceremony accessories: unity candle, candle holders, tapers, ring bearer pillow, box for holding cards, sand & sand vases for sand ceremony, etc.
- Purchase personal accessories: garter, guest keepsakes, and engraved toasting glasses
- Review procedures for ceremony lineup, processional, recessional, & receiving lines
- Purchase gifts for wedding party

2 to 4 weeks

- Invite wedding party & guests to rehearsal dinner & confirm date, time, & location
- Decide on seating assignments for rehearsal dinner & reception
- Order place cards from calligrapher
- Confirm wedding party transportation & arrival times
- Move belongings to new home
- Send announcements to local paper
- Confirm lodging for guests with hotels
- Record gifts once received, write thank-you notes promptly
- Make arrangements for gown cleaning & preservation.
- Make arrangements for floral preservation

- Call guests who have not responded to invitation
- Select a responsible person to handle guest book & determine its location

1 to 2 weeks

- Give final count to the reception facility, caterer, & bartending service
- Remind men to pick up their formal wear & to check the fit
- Give musicians all final music selections
- Give master of ceremonies all announcements to be made during evening with the time of schedule of events. Make sure for grand entrance, give the exact order of who will be walking in with whom, & pronunciation for difficult names
- Obtain necessary forms to change names for Social Security card, charge cards, driver's license, car registration, insurance policies, business cards, stationery, employer records, voter registration, utility companies, wills, property titles, leases, deeds, stocks, bonds, government agencies, passports, loans, mail delivery, subscriptions, pension plans, club memberships, & bank accounts
- Confirm rehearsal plans with ceremony officiant, ceremony location, & your attendants
- Confirm all details with every service you have hired. Inform them of any changes
- Make a schedule outlining the details of wedding day & give a copy to each person in wedding party at rehearsal
- Pack for honeymoon
- Inquire about ATMs near honeymoon site
- Pick up wedding rings
- Start packing things to take to rehearsal & the ceremony, including bride's emergency kit. Have a list of contents in each box, & if you take something out, remember to account for it
- Arrange for someone to take all gifts from the reception to your new home.

Wedding Day!

- Eat something, since it will be a long day
- Make sure headpiece & veil make it to your hair appointment
- Make sure nails are done in adequate time for drying
- Make sure you allow plenty of time for makeup to be applied
- Start dressing at least one-half hour before you start taking pictures.
- Remember to relax and enjoy your day!

