



You want everything to be perfect. Use this checklist to make sure you've covered the necessities.

### 12 to 18 Months Ahead

- Announce engagement to friends and family
- Take engagement photo
- Place engagement announcement in paper
- Determine a wedding budget
- Figure out the style and size of wedding, level of formality, time of day
- Meet with clergy or wedding officiant
- Reserve church or ceremony site (keep in mind it may be a different time than what you want if you don't book early enough)
- Reserve reception site
- Select bridal party
- Reserve florist
- Hire a caterer if the reception site isn't catering the event
- Reserve photographer
- Reserve band, DJ, and/or any other type of musician you want
- Send out "Save the Date" letters or cards

### 9 to 11 Months Ahead

- Shop for wedding dress, headpiece, shoes and accessories; order them as soon as possible
- Make honeymoon plans and reservations
- Meet with bridesmaids to select their attire
- Compile tentative guest list
- Reserve rental equipment if needed

### 6 to 8 Months Ahead

- Arrange for wedding day transportation
- Begin registering for shower/wedding gifts
- Order bridesmaids' attire if you haven't already and begin selecting their accessories
- Select Mothers' dresses
- Discuss where the two of you will live after the wedding and begin looking for places together
- Order your wedding cake

### 3 to 5 Months Ahead

- Book site for rehearsal dinner
- Make a final guest list with names, addresses, and phone numbers and compile a response chart so you can keep track of your guests
- Start the dreaded wedding workout
- Select and order wedding invitations (don't forget to include maps with the invitations and purchase Thank You notes)
- Reserve rooms at hotels for out-of-town guests
- Select groom's attire
- Plan rehearsal dinner
- Make a food tasting appointment with caterer and baker
- Select ceremony readings and music and choose your readers
- Order wedding rings and engraving
- Get the undergarments necessary for your gown
- Meet with ceremony officiant again to discuss obligations to the church, religion, etc.
- Purchase bridal party gifts (and don't forget the parents)
- Purchase wedding favors
- Reserve room for wedding night

### Two Months Ahead

- Now is the time to be calling and reconfirming all those vendor contracts!
- Check requirements for medical tests and marriage license for wedding and honeymoon
- Mail invitations four to eight weeks ahead
- Plan luncheon/special party for bridesmaids
- Choose gifts for attendants and future husband
- Meet with musician(s) to discuss song list
- Meet with photographer to discuss the particular wedding photos you want taken
- Finalize the details for the flowers
- Make final fitting appointment
- Organize ceremony rehearsal arrangements
- Start practicing your makeup if you're doing it yourself
- Make appointment for bridal portrait
- Schedule a practice hair appointment (do any hair color changes and/or drastic cut changes now so it isn't a shock to you right before the wedding)
- Start working on those vows to one another (if you've decided to write your own)

### One Month Ahead

- Make appointment(s) for hair, make-up, manicure, pedicure, and/or massage for yourself and bridal party for the day of or day before your wedding (and don't forget about the Moms!)
- Send your wedding announcement to the paper
- Attend your final fitting
- Make arrangements to change your name
- Put together programs
- Go for a practice hair and makeup appointment. Don't forget to bring your veil or hairpiece!
- Attend your bridal portrait
- Have those vows done!
- Inform your bridal party of the rehearsal and dinner plans

### Two Weeks Ahead

- Pick up marriage license
- Prepare seating chart for reception and rehearsal dinner
- Make a wedding day flowchart of events, hour by hour, to give your bridal party and all key vendors
- Give caterer finalized guest count
- Confirm honeymoon reservations and buy travelers checks
- Break in the wedding shoes
- Between two and four weeks ahead, have a facial and start drinking eight glasses of water everyday

### One Week Ahead

- Pack for the honeymoon
- Give the ushers their instructions
- Confirm all transportation for the wedding day and honeymoon trip
- Gather attendants' gifts to give to them at the rehearsal dinner
- Confirm all vendors again
- Put together your emergency kit for the big day. (Take the whole week to do this so you don't leave out anything crucial!)

### The Day Before

- Attend rehearsal ceremony and dinner; set a specific time for everyone in the wedding party to meet on the wedding day and make sure everyone knows where to go for pictures
- Give gifts to the bridal party
- Lay out all clothes, jewelry and other accessories you'll need for the next day, including your emergency kit
- Discuss receiving-line procedures with parents and bridal party
- Leave gift for the groom to find tomorrow, or exchange gifts with one another today
- Relax and get some rest—tomorrow is a big day!