

# Wedding countdown

## Six to 12 months before

Set a budget for the wedding, working closely with those responsible for the finances.

Decide on the date, size and formality of the ceremony and reception and the location(s) for both.

Select and reserve site for the ceremony. Also reserve a time for the rehearsal.

Coordinate date and time chosen with ceremony and reception sites.

Select an officiant for the ceremony. Find out the requirements for the type of ceremony chosen (civil or religious).

Arrange for premarital counseling or marriage preparation classes with officiant, if appropriate.

Decide on approximate number of guests and begin assembling a list.

Select color scheme for wedding and reception.

Shop for wedding gown, veil and other accessories.

Select attendants and invite them to participate in your wedding. Record their names, addresses, phone numbers and clothing sizes.

Select and order bridal attendants' dresses.

Seek professionals for music, flowers, photography, reception catering (and wedding cake preparation) and video-taping.

Register with bridal gift registry.

## Three to six months before

Set a deadline no later than three months before the wedding to have families complete their guest lists.

Order invitations, announcements, enclosures and other personal stationery.

Order bride's, groom's wedding rings.

Coordinate rehearsal dinner with groom's parents. Provide dinner hosts with guest list.

Begin looking for a place to live, and plan home furnishings.

Choose tuxedos or other men's attire.

Discuss honeymoon plans with fiancé(e).

## Two months before

As gifts arrive, compile a thank-you list with descriptions of gifts received. Write thank-you notes.

Address and mail invitations five weeks before the wedding.

Buy and wrap bridal attendants' gifts. Check on delivery dates of your gown and attendants' dresses.

Decide on clothes for your honeymoon.

Plan where to dress on wedding day.

Meet with officiant to choose or design ceremony.

Plan wedding rehearsal with officiant.

Plan wedding and reception music. Make plans final with florist, photographer, caterer and cake baker or bakery, etc.

Make lodging and/or travel plans for out-of-town guests.

Arrange wedding-day transportation.

Order any rental equipment needed for



ceremony or reception.

## One month before

Have wedding rings engraved.

Address wedding announcements.

Make arrangements for bridesmaids' luncheon. Invite attendants to luncheon.

Make appointment to have hair, makeup and nails done for wedding.

Schedule fittings for wedding dress.

Make plans for pre-ceremony buffet, if applicable.

Make plans final for rehearsal dinner.

Make arrangements for after-reception clean-up, return rental equipment and transportation of gifts.

Check on state's requirements for receiving a marriage license.

Go with fiancé to obtain marriage license.

## Two weeks before

Pack for honeymoon.

Organize wedding clothes and accessories so they are all in one place on wedding day.

Prepare to send wedding announcement to local newspaper(s).

Have ceremony programs printed.

Arrange for someone to mail wedding announcements after the wedding.

Send information on transportation and guest housing to out-of-town guests.

## One week before

Make arrangements for delivery/pick-up of dresses, wedding cake, etc.

Double-check plans with: coordinator for ceremony site, officiant, musicians, florist, videographer, photographer, reception site coordinator, caterer, cake baker, rental equipment provider.

Confirm number of acceptances with reception site coordinator and caterer.

Prepare seating charts and place cards for reception.

Make up emergency kit: needle, thread, safety pins, bobby pins, tissues, etc., to be taken to ceremony site.

Arrange to board pets for honeymoon.

Attend bridesmaids' luncheon.

## One day before

Pick up wedding attire for groom and attendants.

Attend rehearsal and rehearsal dinner.

## Wedding day

Bathe slowly and dress carefully for wedding.

Let someone else check on last-minute details.

Enjoy your wedding day.

Source: Goble and Shea's Complete Wedding Planner, Questar Publishers.

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