

12 Month Wedding Checklist

Twelve months before:

- ☐ Envision your wedding: formal hotel or friend's loft? Backyard barbecue or exotic beach?
- ☐ Pick preferred wedding dates and times and finalize after talking with important guests, location or officiant.
- ☐ Decide on your budget and hash out who's contributing.
- ☐ Hire a wedding consultant (if you want to work with one).
- ☐ Start a notebook/file folder to house all your wedding-planning paperwork in one place.
- ☐ It's never too early to start shopping for The Dress.
- ☐ Start building your guest list. Decide on approximate size so you can book location.
- ☐ Scout out ceremony and reception sites and book as soon as possible.
- ☐ Begin looking for vendors (caterer, photographer, musicians) and make appointments.
- ☐ Choose attendants and ask them to do the honors.
- ☐ Find an officiant that suits your style and spirit.
- ☐ Book a limousine.

9 to 11 months before:

- ☐ Submit a newspaper engagement announcement (optional).
- ☐ Shop for and decide on bridesmaid dresses; collect necessary measurements from attendants.
- ☐ Contact out-of-towners so they can start making travel plans.
- ☐ Meet with your officiant to discuss ceremony structure and any marriage requirements.
- ☐ Choose your caterer, begin working on the menu, send a deposit and execute a contract.
- ☐ Reserve your photographer and/or videographer; decide on packages and execute a contract.
- ☐ Set up appointments with florists to discuss options.
- ☐ Book your reception band or DJ; execute contract.
- ☐ Research potential honeymoon destinations and contact a travel agent.

7 to 8 months before:

- ☐ Consult with your stationer or order catalogs for invitations and other stationery needs.
- ☐ Order your gown!
- ☐ Reserve tent, chairs or other party equipment (asker caterer or site is handling it).
- ☐ Finalize wording and order your invitations and announcements.
- ☐ Book your florist and begin to finalize flower choices and styles.
- ☐ Book a wedding cake designer/baker.
- ☐ Choose ceremony music/musicians.
- ☐ Register for gifts.
- ☐ Reserve a block of hotel rooms for out-of-town guests.

3 to 4 months before:

- ☐ Finalize guest list and start addressing invitations.
- ☐ Finalize order with florist and execute contract.
- ☐ Finalize menu and service details with caterer.
- ☐ Confirm delivery date for gowns and bridesmaids' dresses and schedule fittings.
- ☐ Compile and send out hotel information packages for out-of-town guests.
- ☐ Shop for and purchase wedding bands.
- ☐ Research local marriage license requirements.
- ☐ Consider specific ceremony and reception decoration needs like a bistro pub, aisle runner, etc.
- ☐ Pick out or design a ketubah or other marriage contract required by your religion.
- ☐ Start looking to buy or rent groom's tux or other formal attire.
- ☐ Coordinate the groomsmen's outfits.
- ☐ Make or buy reception favors.
- ☐ Book rehearsal-dinner site and finalize guest list.

2 months before:

- ☐ Get passports and/or visas if you're traveling abroad for your honeymoon.
- ☐ Send out invitations.
- ☐ Have final wedding dress fittings.
- ☐ Order or make ceremony programs.
- ☐ Begin working on vows if you're writing your own.
- ☐ Arrange wedding-day transportation.

6 weeks before:

- ☐ Decide on and purchase all accessories (veil, shoes, lingerie, etc.)
- ☐ Make sure your bridesmaids have dealt with dresses and shoes.
- ☐ Buy gifts for the wedding party.
- ☐ Submit your wedding announcement to newspapers (optional).

3 to 4 weeks before:

- ☐ Work out wedding day timing and details (who will get the bride there, will the wedding party dress before arriving at the site, etc.)
- ☐ Pick up wedding rings.
- ☐ Finalize vows, readings and other special ceremony details with officiant.
- ☐ Confirm wedding-night and honeymoon reservations.
- ☐ Send rehearsal-dinner invitations.
- ☐ Start putting together a reception seating chart.
- ☐ Draw up a "must-take" photo list for your band/DJ and a "must-take" photo list for the photographer.
- ☐ Get final pre-wedding haircuts if necessary.
- ☐ Do trial runs of hair and makeup and schedule wedding-day appointments.
- ☐ Get a head start on those thank-you notes!

1 to 2 weeks before:

- ☐ Get marriage license and make appointments for blood tests (if necessary).
- ☐ Start calling guests who haven't RSVP'd for the wedding and rehearsal dinner (it's OK to do this; you need a final head count).
- ☐ Finalize seating chart and make place cards.
- ☐ Touch base with officiant.
- ☐ Confirm final head count with reception site/caterer.
- ☐ Confirm location, date and time with all vendors, usher and attendants.
- ☐ Call location manager and coordinate access for your vendors at the times they need it.
- ☐ Fax limo/car company a schedule and addresses for pickup on wedding day.
- ☐ If you don't have it yet, pick up the dress and veil.
- ☐ Groom: Pick up your tux and try it on.
- ☐ Prepare boutonniere.
- ☐ Shop and pack for honeymoon.

The day before:

- ☐ Put final payments and tips in carefully marked envelopes and give to responsible person to distribute on wedding day.
- ☐ Pull together wedding gown, all accessories, and a last-minute emergency kit.
- ☐ Distribute wedding-day directions, schedule, and contact list to all parents, attendants, and vendors.
- ☐ Confirm all honeymoon travel plans.
- ☐ Bride: Confirm big-day beauty appointments.
- ☐ Rehearse the ceremony.
- ☐ Have fun and relax at your rehearsal dinner.
- ☐ Get some sleep and get ready for the biggest day of your life.

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Local Resource Options at MapYourWedding.com