

Wedding Checklist

12 MONTHS OR MORE BEFORE THE WEDDING

- Meet, call, or email important friends and family with the big news. Parents of the bride traditionally come first.
- Envision your overall wedding.
- Draw up your wedding budget with help from your families.
- Decide on your wedding size and start to drawing up the initial guest list.
- Begin to research ceremony and reception sites.
- Book any vendors that you have already decided on or are completely focused on – after you make sure that they suit your budget.
- Ask close friends and relatives to be members of the wedding party.
- Book your ceremony and reception locations.
- If the priest minister or rabbi at a house of worship isn't marrying you, choose and book an officiant.
- Make a Web page to announce your wedding.
- Have an engagement party (optional).

8–10 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

- Bride: Start envisioning and shopping for you dress.
- Envision your wedding food; start researching and interviewing caterers.
- Start researching and interviewing photographer and videographer.
- Book your photographer/videographer.
- Envision your wedding entertainment; start researching and interviewing receptions bands or DJs.
- Book your band or DJ.
- Picture your floral decor; start researching and interviewing florists.
- Book your florists.
- Register for gifts.
- Book your caterer.
- If you'll have many out-of-town guests; research and reserve accommodations.
- If you need to rent anything for you ceremony or reception, find and contact a rental company.

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6-8 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

- Decide on the menu.
- Book your ceremony musicians.
- Start shopping for bridesmaids' dresses.
- Finalize flower ideas with florist.
- Start planning your honeymoon.
- Order the bridesmaids' dresses.
- Start working on the song list for the ceremony

4-6 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

- Attend prewedding counseling
- Start shopping for invitations.
- Groom: Start shopping for you and the grooms mens' formalwear.
- Start shopping for wedding rings.
- Envision your wedding cake; start finding a cake designer.
- 3 Months Before the Wedding
- Finalize your guest list.
- Order you invitations.
- Order your wedding cake.
- Order you wedding rings.
- Groom: Rent the men's formalwear.
- Hire limousines/other cars for transport on the wedding day.

Wedding Checklist

2 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

- Mail your invitations.
- If saying original vows, write them.
- Purchase gifts for parents, attendants and each other.
- Make hairstylist appointment.

TWO WEEKS AND COUNTING...

- Apply for a marriage license together in the town where you'll wed.
- Call guest who have not yet returned their invitation response cards.
- Deliver a must-take photo list to the photographer, including who should be in formal portraits. Determine when portraits will be shot.
- Draw up and deliver to your DJ or bandleader a list of special song requests, and any songs you definitely want (or don't want) played.
- Bride: Get one last prewedding haircut of trim and hair colour touch-up.

1 MONTH BEFORE THE WEDDING

- Bride: Have your final wedding dress fitting. Bring your maid of honour along so she can learn how to bustle your dress. Have the dress pressed and bring it home.
- Call all bridesmaids to make sure they have their gowns ready for the wedding.
- Create and have the wedding program printed.
- Order or plan in-room welcome baskets, etc. for out of town guests' hotel rooms.

ONE WEEK BEFORE!

- Give the reception site and the caterer a final guest head count; include vendors, such as band members and the photographer, who will expect a meal.
- Supply the reception site manager with a list of requests from other vendors.
- Do the reception seating chart and write out place or table cards.
- Call all vendors to confirm all arrangements and confirm wedding day.
- Give the ceremony and reception site managers a schedule of vendor delivery and setup times, plus contact numbers.