

TIME TABLE

Organized planning will ensure you enjoy every minute of your wedding day. Begin planning efforts for a large formal wedding at least twelve months beforehand.

Twelve Months or More Ahead

- Select a wedding date. (Select backup dates in case site or church is already booked)
 - Consult fiancé and parents on budget and financial support.
 - Set budget and number of guests to be invited.
 - Decide type of wedding: informal or formal.
 - Choose and secure the ceremony location.
 - Choose and book officiant.
 - Choose and secure the reception location.
 - Buy wedding rings.
 - Book wedding consultant, if applicable.
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Eight to Twelve Months Ahead

- Order gown and accessories: veil, lingerie, gloves and shoes.
 - Compile guest list from both the bride and groom's families.
 - Choose and notify attendants.
 - Select and order attendants' gowns.
 - Select caterer.
 - Select photographer.
 - Select floral designer.
 - Select and order wedding cake and cake top.
 - Select balloon decorator.
 - Select videographer.
 - Select and register bridal registry items.
 - Select music for ceremony.
 - Select music/entertainment for reception.
 - Plan details of reception.
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Six to Eight Months Ahead

- Plan details with floral designer.
 - Order invitations, announcements, personal stationery, thank-you-notes and save-the-date cards.
 - Have map to reception designed and printed (include with invitation).
 - Reserve limousine transportation for the bridal party.
 - Reserve or arrange transportation to and from the ceremony and reception for out-of-town guests.
 - Reserve rental equipment: tables/chairs
 - Find a new place to live.
 - Finalize honeymoon plans with fiancé.
 - Reserve accommodations for out-of-town guests.
 - Book engagement portrait photographer.
 - Hire stylists for wedding hair and makeup.
 - Hire a "day of" coordinator to orchestrate the ceremony and reception, if applicable.
 - Get into a consistent exercise routine
 - Send save-the-date cards
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Four to Six Months Ahead

- Book calligrapher.
 - Select men's formalwear.
 - Book room for wedding night.
 - Choose and order favors.
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Two to Four Months Ahead

- Announce engagement in local newspapers.
- Address wedding invitations.
- Choose groom's and attendants' gifts.
- Confirm delivery dates of all dresses.
- Discuss details of menu with caterer.
- Discuss ceremony with officiant.
- Choose readings and confirm vows for ceremony.
- Schedule the rehearsal.
- Confirm rehearsal dinner arrangements.

One to Two Months Ahead

- Buy hose and any remaining accessories needed.
 - Have final dress fitting.
 - Pick up rings; check engraving.
 - Buy guest book, pen, toasting glasses, unity candles, garter, cake knife and server, flower girl's basket and ring bearer's pillow.
 - Confirm all professional services in writing.
 - Print wedding programs.
 - Mail invitations.
 - Practice hairstyle with veil if doing your own hair for wedding.
 - Set a date with your fiancé to get the marriage license.
 - Make name change to proper documents.
 - Remind your bridesmaids of final gown fittings.
 - Plan bridesmaids' party.
 - Have formal wedding portrait taken.
 - Pick up gown or have delivered.
 - Write thank-you notes for gifts received.
 - Assign friends or family to assist with boutonnieres, guest book, gift table and cake cutting.
 - Send request lists to photographer, videographer and musicians.
 - Plan bouquet preservation.
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Two Weeks Ahead

- Double check attire and accessories for all members of the wedding party.
 - Confirm time and date of wedding rehearsal with wedding party.
 - Review reception seating plans and prepare place cards, if necessary.
 - Schedule appointment for manicure.
 - Arrange for cleaning and preservation of gown upon return from honeymoon.
 - Write toasts for rehearsal dinner and wedding reception.
 - Address announcements to mail on wedding day.
 - Confirm honeymoon arrangements.
 - Break-in wedding shoes at home.
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One Week Ahead

- Have final conversations with caterer, florist, baker, photographer, musicians and videographer.
 - Give final count to reception facility and caterer.
 - Host and/or attend bridesmaids' luncheon.
 - Pack for honeymoon.
 - Get going-away outfit ready.
 - Purchase traveler's checks.
 - Confirm responsibilities assigned to family and friends.
 - Finalize seating chart.
 - Send change of address information to post office.
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One Day Ahead

- Confirm pickup times with limousine and/or other transportation.
 - Groom and groomsmen try on formalwear and shoes for fit.
 - Rehearsal and rehearsal dinner.
 - Present attendant gifts to wedding party at the rehearsal dinner.
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Your Wedding Day

- Mail announcements.
- Mail gift to parents to thank them for their help and support.
- Get married!