

The Bride's 12 Month Checklist

Golden Rule - Plan Ahead - Way Ahead

10 TO 12 MONTHS PRIOR

- Buy your [wedding planner](#) or good organizer
- Discuss the style of the wedding and the budget with your fiancée and ALL parents.
- Interview wedding consultants, advisors and coordinators. Look at [decorations](#).
- Speak with all your friends - pick their brains - learn who knows what and who knows who.
- Speak to your clergy - speak with other family members' clergy - ask questions.
- Begin looking for locations - ceremony - rehearsal dinner - reception - other planned events
- Begin interviewing Caterers, Bakers, Photographers, Florists, Videographers, Musicians
- By the end of Month 12 select three of your key players: advisor/consultant - caterer and [photographer](#)
- By end of Month 11 select site for the ceremony
- By end of Month 10 select site for the reception and rehearsal dinner
- By end of Month 10 select the remaining key players; baker, florist, musicians, videographer

7 TO 9 MONTHS PRIOR

- Select all of your attendants
- Together, begin compiling your guest list
- Contact and visit clergy or justice of the peace
- Begin shopping for your wedding gown and appropriate clothiers for your attendants (ladies) accessorize, accessorize, accessorize, accessorize
- Register with no less than three well known Bridal Registries for gifts
- Begin looking at honeymoon options with your fiancée - visit a travel agency or professional specializing in leisure travel - if you plan to leave the country check on your passports.
- By the end of Month 9 choose clergy
- By the end of Month 8 decide on a menu.
- By the end of Month 7 schedule engagement photo session
- By the end of Month 7 select and order attendant's apparel

4 TO 6 MONTHS PRIOR

- Begin review of details with all of your wedding professionals
- Finalize honeymoon plans with fiancée and book with travel agent
- By end of Month 6 shop for and order invitations/announcements
- Finalize music selection for wedding and reception
- By end of Month 5 book calligrapher

- By end of Month 5 shop and order the men's formal wear
- Book wedding transportation - limousines, horse-drawn carriages, hot air balloons, boat, or whatever
- By end of Month 4 have the rehearsal dinner plans in place (make sure you coordinate this with your fiancée).

2 TO 3 MONTHS PRIOR

- Order the wedding rings!!
- Finish guest list
- Shop till you drop
 - Lingerie
 - Honeymoon Clothes
 - Attendants gifts
 - Your gift for your fiancée
 - Pre- & post-wedding party clothes you might need
- Finalize catering, bakery, floral arrangements (be a little flexible)
- Reserve a block of rooms for your out-of-town guests (good work for your fiancée)
- Finalize arrangements for any rental items you may need
 - Candelabra & other silver pieces
 - Special decorative screens & archways
 - Special lighting (particularly if part of the event will be outside or in a unique area where normal lighting may not be possible)
- Make appointment with your hairdresser (a trial run for next month - also good for your bridal portrait) Have her help you with your veil.
- Make appointment with your hairdresser (final) Have her show you how to work with the headpiece you choose.
- Make appointment for your nails (hands and feet)-
- Make appointment with a makeup artist for the day of your bridal portrait

4 TO 8 WEEKS PRIOR

- Mail your wedding invitations and send either your preplanned special itinerary for early arriving out-of-town guests or an activity sheet from area chambers-of-commerce
- Final fittings (you and the attendants)
- Plan the bridesmaids' luncheon & confirm the location & instructions
- By Week 6 have bridal portrait taken
- Send local paper and wedding publications your announcement and photograph
- Notes! Notes! Notes! Write Thank You Notes as you receive bridal and wedding gifts
- Reconfirm rehearsal events and rehearsal dinner reservations
- For your own peace of mind personally touch base with every key professional you and/or your coordinator have working on all your upcoming events
- By Week 4 **Pick Up Wedding Rings**

- Get marriage license with fiancée
- Reconfirm honeymoon reservations and (if leaving the country) get a bank and exchange at least \$100 into foreign currency)
- Submit request lists to your musicians, photographer and videographer
- Formally invite wedding party and guests to the rehearsal dinner
- Confirm all transportation for all events (including honeymoon)
- Address announcements to mail on your wedding day
- [Prepare all the necessary forms for name address changes on social security card, credit cards, bank accounts, post office, driver's license, etc.](#)
- Arrange to move belongings to new home
- By the last day of Week 2 plan a day to be alone with your family

1 WEEK PRIOR

- On the very first day of the last week begin packing for your honeymoon
- Check final details with all your wedding professionals - early in the week
- Give (or attend) the Bridesmaids' luncheon
- Give final guest count to the caterer
- Create a wedding day schedule with your fiancée
- Reminder Day
 - Remind wedding party men to pick up tuxedos
 - Remind attendants of rehearsal dinner agenda
 - Remind fiancée to double check rehearsal dinner plans
- Finish packing for your honeymoon
- Rehearsal Dinner (give wedding day schedule to all)
- Schedule the day prior to the wedding as a free day - and a day to visit with a few close friends