

# weddingday *To-Do List*

## 1. Getting Started: 9–12 months in advance

- Start a filing system to keep track of your wedding planning activities.
- Choose a wedding date.
- Establish a wedding and honeymoon budget. Prioritize—what areas will you splurge and what areas will you skimp?
- Begin planning your guestlist. Decide on an approximate number of guests.
- Find and book a venue for the ceremony and reception. Many venues are fully booked a year or more in advance!
- Begin research on honeymoon locations. Talk to a travel agent and get your passports in order if necessary.
- Choose your attendants.

## 2. Hiring Vendors: 6–9 months in advance

- Hire a wedding planner if needed.
- Hire an officiant.
- Interview and hire photographer, videographer, bakery, florist, caterer, and musicians.
- If you are doing your own music, begin planning the playlist now.
- Research and hire any transportation necessary, such as limos or busses for guests.
- Research hotels and reserve a block of rooms for out-of-town guests if necessary.
- Begin your wedding gift registry.
- Begin looking at invitation styles.

## 3. The Dress: 6 months in advance

- Choose your wedding colors. Begin thinking about decorations to work within your theme.
- Select your wedding day undergarments—you will need them for dress fittings.
- Select and order your gown and veil.
- Select your bridesmaids dresses.
- Select tuxedos or suits for attendants.
- Buy the rings.

## 4. Ceremony and Reception Planning: 6 months in advance

- Order Invitations.
- Make reservations for the rehearsal dinner.
- Choose ceremony music.
- Write your vows and select any readings or poetry for the ceremony.
- Order or begin making any specialized print materials such as programs, menus, or table or place setting cards.
- Begin gathering any items needed for the reception such as a guestbook, a box for cards, pictures or a DVD presentation of the bride and groom, cake toppers, etc.
- Finalize your guest list and send out save-the-date cards.

## 5. Details: 3 months in advance

- Prepare your reception favors.
- Finalize your floral arrangements, reception table centerpieces, linens, and decorations.
- Get the directions needed for your guests, and prepare any necessary information about getting around necessary for out-of-towners.
- Choose the reception food with the caterer.
- Select your cake flavors and decorations with your bakery.
- Address and send out the invitations.
- Schedule any hair, makeup, or spa appointments necessary for the day before the wedding.
- Take care of any necessary garment alterations.
- Get a marriage license.

#### 6. Last-minute details: One-month prior to the event

- Get in touch with any guests who haven't RSVP-ed.
- Confirm dates and times with your venues, and confirm travel plans for your honeymoon.
- Confirm all the details with your vendors.
- Make any necessary arrangements for while you are away on your honeymoon (pet accommodations, stopping mail or paper delivery, etc.)
- Re-check the fit of your wedding day garments, make sure everything is pressed and ready to go.
- Have bachelor/bachelorette party.
- Get a gift for your husband/wife-to-be.
- Confirm rehearsal dinner plans with your attendants.
- Assemble an emergency kit for the day of your wedding. Emergency kit includes:
  - Cell phone and emergency phone list, including the names and numbers for all of your vendors.
  - Extra stockings, nail polish for stocking fixes.
  - Stain/spot remover. Mini sewing kit. Safety pins.
  - Hair brush, product for hair, bobby pins, mirror, curling iron, and anything needed for hair touch-ups.
  - Lotion, lip gloss, power or oil-blotting paper, and any make-up needed for touch-ups.
  - Mints, dental floss, tooth brush.
  - Deodorant. Mini bottle of your favorite scent.
  - Nail file.
  - Visene and travel tissues.
  - Healthy snacks.
  - Baby wipes.
  - Ibuprofen, or any medications necessary such as antihistamines for allergies.