

# Planning Timeline

You can savor your wedding celebration more fully by preparing thoroughly for the big day. Arrangements for a large, formal wedding ideally should begin at least eight to twelve months in advance, but many beautiful weddings – in all degrees of formality – are put together in considerably less time than that. The most important rules of preparation are to follow a timetable and to share the joyful tasks involved with your fiancé, your families and your attendants. Also, be sure to read the articles in this guide carefully and let your contracted suppliers help you. Happy planning!

## Six to twelve months before your wedding:

- Determine your budget and discuss the sharing of expenses.
- Decide on your wedding type (formal, semi-formal, informal).
- Choose ceremony site. Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Discuss alternative dates with clergy or officiant.
- Decide wedding party size and choose attendants.
- Select gown and veil style. Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Select attendants' apparel. Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Choose reception site. Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Select caterer / wedding consultant. Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Plan reception details. Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Select photographer. Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Have engagement photos taken. Date & Time \_\_\_\_\_
- Select reception music. Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Select videographer. Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Select florist. Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Compile invitation lists from the families of you and your fiancé.
- Discuss gown colors and styles with mothers of the bride and groom.

## Four to six months before your wedding:

- Select and order men's formal wear. Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Select ceremony music and musicians. Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Make honeymoon plans. Travel Agent's Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Decide on your new living arrangements (buying, renting, leasing).
- Consult a home decorator. Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Register gift preferences with one or more bridal registries.
- Order invitations, personal stationery, programs, napkins etc.  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Professionally prepare and print map to include with invitations.
- Reserve hotel rooms for out-of-town guests.
- Have physical examinations and update immunizations.
- Buy wedding rings and order engraving

## Two to four months before your wedding:

- Reserve rental items (candelabra, arches, canopy, lines, etc.).
- Arrange rehearsal dinner. Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Shop for trousseau and honeymoon and pre-nuptial party apparel.
- Reserve limousine, carriage, trolley or coach.
- Address wedding invitations. (Consider hiring a professional calligrapher)
- Review florist's arrangements and finalize your order.
- Experiment with hairstyles and makeup changes.
- Buy bridal and attendants' shoes. Send to dyer.
- Order wedding and groom's cakes.

## One to two months before your wedding:

- Mail invitations (four to six weeks before wedding).
- Confirm all contracted arrangements.
- Have final bridal fitting. Date & Time \_\_\_\_\_
- Have attendants' fitting. Date & Time \_\_\_\_\_
- Confirm honeymoon reservations and begin packing.
- Select reception decorations (balloons, candles, flowers, table favors, etc.)
- Select reception accessories (handbag, garter, engraved goblets, guest mementos, etc.).
- Arrange bridesmaids' brunch or luncheon.
- Buy marriage license. Have blood tests if needed.

## Two weeks before your wedding:

- Schedule appointments for hair styling, facial, manicure and massage.
- Invite wedding party and guests to rehearsal dinner.
- Move personal and mutual belongings to your new house.
- Review reception seating and order place cards from calligrapher.
- Confirm out-of-town guest lodging at hotel(s).
- Record gifts as you receive them and write thank you notes.
- Schedule caterer for gift opening party. Phone \_\_\_\_\_
- Arrange for gown cleaning and bouquet preservation after wedding.

## One to two weeks before your wedding:

- Pick up wedding rings. Check engravings and sizings.
- Have final consultations with florist, musicians, photographer, videographer.
- Give final guest count to reception facility and caterer.
- Remind men to pick up formal wear and shoes and check for fit.
- Make a wedding day schedule and give everyone copies at rehearsal dinner.
- Relax the day before your wedding. Keep personal appointments and finish honeymoon packing.
- Have a wonderful day!