

Wedding Checklist

By Sherry M. Lewis

- One Year Before
 - Fall in love!
 - Make a budget.
 - Determine elements like theme, tone, colors, etc.
 - Determine the kind of venue you and your partner would like for your wedding Find a venue.
 - Set the date and time.
 - Book your venues, both ceremony and reception sites.
 - Take photos for engagement announcement.
 - Announce your engagement via a website, blog, newspaper, post, email, etc.
 - Plan an engagement party.
 - Hire a wedding planner or consultant.
 - Find and book someone to perform your wedding ceremony.
 - Research online and buy bridal magazines to get inspiration.
- Nine Months Before
 - Make a guest list.
 - Send 'Save the Date' notices to guests.
 - Choose members of the wedding party (maid of honor, best man, bridesmaids, ushers, ring bearer, flower girl, etc.)
 - Discuss where your honeymoon will be, begin researching and set a budget.
 - Book your honeymoon transportation and accommodation Find Bed & Breakfasts.
 - Find a caterer for food and drinks Go for a few tastings.
 - Find a wedding cake maker and be sure to go for tastings!
 - Find a florist and begin choosing flowers (for decoration, bouquets, corsages, boutonnieres, flower girls, etc.)
 - Find a photographer and/or videographer.
 - Start shopping for your wedding dress and accessories (jewelry, shoes, veil, gloves, hats, etc).
 - Choose and order decorations (centerpieces, balloons, etc). Find suppliers.

- Join a gym, take fitness classes or begin a sport Get in shape for all those photos!
- Six Months Before
 - Register for gifts.
 - Choose and order your invitations.
 - Find a DJ or musician(s).
 - Order your wedding gown and schedule fittings.
 - Order your wedding cake.
 - If traveling abroad for your honeymoon, make sure passports, visas and inoculations are up to date.
 - Check to see if you'll need rental equipment such as tables, chairs, glassware, dishes, linens, tents, etc.
 - Book accommodation for the wedding night (for yourselves plus those traveling).
 - Choose menswear for groom and ushers Purchase or arrange rentals.
 - Shop for and order your bridesmaids dresses.
 - Plan your rehearsal dinner including location, date, time, menu, guest list, etc.
 - Arrange transportation to and from the wedding, perhaps something special like a limo, horse and carriage, etc?
 - Go shopping for wedding rings.
 - Make your own or buy wedding favors.
 - Purchase wedding accessories (jewelry, shoes, veil, gloves, hats, etc).
 - Be sure parents have selected their wedding attire.
- Three Months Before
 - Send out the wedding invitations.
 - Review the day's events with your officiant who will perform the ceremony.
 - Meet with your photographer and/or videographer to discuss your wishes and needs.
 - Meet with your DJ or musician(s) to discuss song selections.
 - Finalize the menu with your caterer.
 - Investigate what is required for a marriage license (blood tests, documents, etc).
 - If you are changing your name, begin this process now.

- Check that documents are in order (legal, insurance, financial, medical, and religious).
- Finalize details for rehearsal dinner.
- Buy wedding rings.
- Attend your bridal shower.
- Schedule another wedding gown fitting.
- If you are writing your own wedding vows, begin doing so now.
- Research hairstyles and makeup Find and book beauty services.
- Buy gifts for the wedding party and your fiance.
- Keep a running tally of RSVPs from the invites.
- Take dancing lessons.
- One Month Before
 - Call all of your service providers and finalize any loose ends.
 - Check in with your bridal party and parents to make final arrangements.
 - Make arrangements for legal documents, appointments with government offices, etc.
 - Have your final fitting for your wedding gown.
 - Determine seating arrangements and make place cards.
 - Schedule a rehearsal session with your hair stylist and makeup artist.
 - Make wedding programs.
 - Pick up wedding rings.
 - If you are moving in together, find a moving company.
 - Choose a song for your first dance as husband and wife.
 - Write thank you notes as gifts are received.
- A Few Days Before
 - Remember that even if things don't go according to plan, the day will still be memorable.
 - Attend your party (bachelor/stag, bachelorette/hen).
 - Have your rehearsal dinner.
 - If you aren't doing this on your wedding day, go sign legal documents beforehand.
 - Collect your wedding gown.
 - Stage a ceremony rehearsal and practice your vows.
 - Make sure your maid of honor and best man have their toasts prepared.

- Get travel insurance for your honeymoon.
- Make arrangements for when you are out of town on your honeymoon-
Find a pet sitter, freeze newspaper subscriptions, etc.
- Pack for your honeymoon.
- Make preparations for fees due on wedding day.
- Make arrangements to return rented items (groom's attire, equipment, etc.)
- Treat yourself to a manicure and pedicure Find beauty services.
- Visit a tanning salon.
- Exchange gifts with your fiance.
- After the Wedding
 - Enjoy your honeymoon!
 - Send thank you notes.
 - Ensure paperwork went through for your name change.
 - Preserve your wedding gown.
 - Receive photo album and/or video from your photographer and/or videographer.
 - Order and send photos to your family and/or friends.
 - Review your insurance policies and finances Find and meet with a financial advisor to discuss your options as a couple.
 - Cherish your partner, now and always!