

12 MONTHS

- Announce your engagement, and flash your sparkling ring

- Imagine your wedding: Intimate or formal? Beach or ballroom?

- Set a wedding budget, and establish who will pay for what

- Pick preferred wedding dates, and check whether important guests, locations and officiants will be available

6 MONTHS

- Scout out and book a reception venue

- Meet with officiants, and choose one who suits your personal and wedding style

- Confirm the venue for your ceremony (if different from reception)

- Start a wedding planner folder, to keep all your notes and paperwork together

- Compile and finalise your wedding guest list

- Ask your attendants (bridesmaids, best man etc) to do you the honour

- Start a wedding planner folder, to keep all your notes and paperwork together

- Begin shopping for your gown

- Interview and hire a caterer; work out a budget and menu

- Think about bands or DJs

- Set up appointments with florists

- Interview (and get prices from) photographers and videographers

- Find out about religious requirements for your ceremony

- Enquire about taking out a wedding insurance policy

- Look into setting up a gifts registry

- Book your florist, photographers, entertainers, musicians etc and send a deposit

- Start looking for bridesmaid dresses; get each attendant's dress measurements

- Order invitations and reply cards . . . and don't forget envelopes and stamps

4 MONTHS

- Enquire about taking out a wedding insurance policy

- Look into setting up a gifts registry

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- Ask your caterer to recommend big-day cake bakers
 - Book your wedding cake, select a design and send a deposit
 - Work on the design and wording of your invitation

2 MONTHS

- Grooms: decide what you and your attendants will be wearing
- Reserve hired equipment (tables, chairs etc) if caterer is not supplying these
- Reserve a suite or room for your wedding night
- Choose accessories for the bride and bridal attendants
- Try out radical beauty routines, like self-tanners and cleansing facials
- Make or order wedding favours
- Grooms: get measured for your suit or tux
- Check passports, visas etc are ready for honeymoon
- Collect invitations; start addressing them
- Change your existing policies (investments, insurance and so on) to accommodate your spouse
- Get wedding rings engraved
- Grooms: choose shirts, cuff links, ties . . .

1 MONTH

- Send out invitations
- Order wine and liquor, if not supplied by caterer
- Work on your wedding vows
- Read up on requirements for a marriage licence
- Attend dress fittings; buy shoes and a veil to suit your gown
- Meet with a hairdresser and check the dress, veil and hairstyle work together
- Buy gifts for attendants

ONE WEEK

- Attend bachelor party or bridal shower

- Do trial runs of bride's hair and make-up

- Print programmes for the ceremony

- Get a marriage licence

- Collect wedding rings and check inscriptions

- Brides: have final haircut before the wedding

- Draw up a wedding day time sheet

- Collect gown

- Find a garter, something old, something new, something borrowed and blue

- Confirm numbers, time and location with your caterer

THE DAY BEFORE

- Finalise seating plan; make seating chart

- Confirm delivery times with florist

- Confirm date, time and location with photographers, musicians etc

- Grooms: collect your tux

- Make sure attendants have collected their outfits

- Make final payments to vendors

- Go through a 'must take' list with photographer/videographer

- Grooms: go for your final haircut

- Confirm beauty appointments for big day

- Pack for the honeymoon

- Make an emergency kit (headache pills, safety pins, chalk etc)

- Confirm honeymoon reservations

- Pack a small bag for the wedding night

- Set your alarm clock and get some sleep

ON THE DAY

Have a massage, to start the day off feeling great

Tell your parents you love them

Relax, and have a great day

AFTERWARDS

Send your gown off to be cleaned

Make sure you've paid all the bills

Start sending thank-you letters
