

Bride's Checklist

Here's a great tool for the Bride to be. There's always so much to do before your wedding. Here's a handy checklist down to the last minute before your wedding.

Twelve To Eighteen Months Before

- Choose date and time of wedding
- Choose church / wedding location
- Choose who will officiate ceremony
- Have groom arrange transportation
- Set a preliminary budget
- Reserve reception facilities
- Book photographer
- Book band or disc jockey
- Choose members of wedding party

Nine To Twelve Months Before

- Choose wedding theme
- Choose type of reception indoor or formal
- Start guest list
- Decide on colour scheme
- Select wedding party
- Hire bridal consultant
- Choose caterer
- Book decorator
- Choose musicians for ceremony
- Select dress, headpiece, shoes
- Select lingerie & accessories
- Reserve hall for buck & doe
- Reserve rental linen, flatware, etc
- Select a reliable florist
- Choose bridesmaids dresses, shoes
- Begin planning honeymoon
- Check hotel availability for guests

Six To Nine Months Before

- Revise budget
- Plan menu & decorations
- Book suite for wedding night
- Order men's attire
- Start wine for reception
- Order wedding cake
- Book videographer
- Decide if open or cash bar
- Make beauty appointments
- Have both mothers select dresses
- Announce engagement in newspaper
- Purchase wedding bands
- Attend gown fittings with shoes

Four To Six Months Before

- Passports / inoculations
- Plan ceremony & reception music
- Order invitations & stationary
- Hire bartenders
- Make required deposits and sign contracts
- Order accessories for reception – pen, guest book, cake knife, garter etc
- Order wedding favours

Three Months Before

- Select readers for ceremony
- Obtain liquor license for hall if required
- Purchase gifts for attendants / parents
- Finalize details for ceremony / church
- Call insurance broker – wedding insurance
- Check requirements for marriage license
- Make rehearsal dinner plans
- Address all invitations
- Finalize details with all professionals
- Hire soloists / organists
- Register at bridal registry

Two Months Before

- Mail invitations 4-6 weeks before wedding
- Purchase gift for fiancé
- Create seating plan & name cards
- Get forms for address & name change
- Verify accommodations for guests
- Confirm honeymoon arrangements
- Have rings engraved if required
- Plan luncheon for bridesmaids

One Month Before

- Apply for marriage license
- Have final fitting for gown and dresses
- Complete all physical appointments
- Complete all dental appointments
- Hand out agenda sheets for the wedding day to photographer, dj's, officiant, master of ceremonies & attendants
- Check for all reception accessories
- Break in wedding shoes, wear socks
- Arrange for someone to take your dress to the cleaners after the reception
- Make arrangements to board any pets
- Have bridesmaids attend final fitting
- Arrange for a house sitter

Two Weeks Before

- Pick up gown & bridesmaids dresses
- Pick up flight tickets, travelers cheques
- Call guests who have not replied
- Have trial hair styles & make up

One Week Before

- Count final acceptances, caterer will need
- Final count for the dinner – inform caterer if there are any dietary restrictions
- Pack for honeymoon
- Make up emergency kit to take with you (thread, pantyhose etc)
- Have groom have his hair cut
- Lots of sleep, don't wear yourself out
- Have facials, skin treatments, waxing
- Give nail polish & lipstick to bridesmaids
- Confirm all details with professionals

The Day Before

- Rehearsal & rehearsal dinner
- Give gifts to attendants / parents
- Set up reception hall
- Get manicure / pedicure / massage
- Have groom & groomsmen pick up tuxedos

On Your Wedding Day

- Have a good, healthy breakfast
- Have hair and make-up done at least three hours ahead
- Allow yourself and bridesmaids plenty of time to dress – two hours
- Groom should ensure that rings and license are given to best man
- Have flowers delivered or picked up, bouquets, corsages & boutonnieres
- Give best man the officiants fee in a sealed envelope, the ring & marriage license
- Transfer your engagement ring to your right hand before ceremony begins

One Hour Before

- Ushers arrive at church to place programs in the pews and pin on their boutonnieres

30 Minutes Before

- Organist begins playing soft music. Guests begin arriving and are ushered to their seats, beginning with seats directly behind those reserved for family.
Grooms family on the right hand side, brides on the left

25 Minutes Before

- Mother of the bride and bridesmaids leave for the church

20 Minutes Before

- Bride and her father leave for the church, arriving early, circling the block if necessary

15 Minutes Before

- The groom and his best man arrive at the church

5 Minutes Before

- Last minute guests arrive, all family members and wedding party are accounted for
The processional music begins

1 Minute Before

- The bride and her father enter the church. The groom and the best man stand ready.

Ceremony begins!!

Enjoy.....Your future awaits. Congratulations you made it.