

## Wedding Day Countdown

### **9-12+ months before**

- Buy a wedding planner or agenda
- Announce your engagement to your family and publish newspaper announcement
- Start a budget and create a financial plan for upcoming payments
- Open a saving account
- Create your guest list
- \*Select a date; be prepared to be flexible if you have a specific location or time of year in mind
- \*Visit and book a reception site
- \*Decide on and book a caterer
- \*Choose your ceremony location
- \*Select your officiant
- Decide on rehearsal day and time
- Choose your attendants
- Select a photographer and get your engagement pictures taken
- Start shopping for your wedding dress and accessories
- Start planning your honeymoon
- Start shopping for wedding rings

\*These are the big things to coordinate first so you can settle on the wedding date

### **7-9 months before**

- Send a save-the-date, if needed
- Decide on flower arrangements and other decorations
- Book your florist
- Get menu ideas and meet with your event coordinator or caterer
- Choose and book a photographer and videographer
- Choose and book your entertainment (DJ or band)
- Order your dress and purchase your accessories
- Select bridesmaids' dresses and accessories
- Order wedding rings

- Block off hotel rooms for your guests and reserve your bridal suite for the wedding night
- Discuss your wedding ceremony with your officiant
- Book your honeymoon; use your maiden name so it will match your identification and passport
- Book wedding day transportation
- Start an exercise program

### **5-7 months before**

- Look for invitations and decide on wording
- Start looking for guest favor options
- Decide on dessert options and meet with pastry chef
- Register for your wedding at a gift registry or two
- Reserve any rental equipment, if needed
- Decide on linen colors and reserve special linens, if needed
- Decide on table centerpieces and other room decorations
- Make sure bridesmaids have ordered their dresses and accessories
- Schedule dress fittings for bride and bridesmaids
- Determine bride's hairstyle
- Decide on tuxedos and accessories for groom and groomsmen
- Order groom's tux
- Book your rehearsal dinner and notify your officiant of rehearsal time and following dinner
- Decide who will give readings, do solos, etc. during the ceremony and notify them of your wishes

### **3-5 months before**

- Finalize your menu and schedule tasting
- Hire a bar service, if not handled by caterer
- Finalize your guest list
- Finalize flowers and centerpieces for guest tables
- Book make-up and hair appointments for the big day
- Make sure groomsmen have ordered their tuxes
- Finalize honeymoon details
- Purchase any wedding day accessories (candles, card box, ring pillow, etc.)

- Schedule final fittings for bride and bridesmaids
- Plan bridesmaids' luncheon and other parties
- Plan the gift opening brunch or lunch
- Order guest favors, if needed
- Find gifts for your attendants, parents, readers, each other, etc.
- Order invitations, stationary, and napkins
- Design and order ceremony programs, reception menus, and directions/maps for reception

### **1-3 months before**

- Mail invitations (8 weeks before)
- Find out where and when to apply for wedding license
- Finalize ceremony details w/officiant, attendants, readers, etc.
- Finalize rehearsal dinner details
- Finalize menu and cake or dessert details
- Select music for the ceremony, cocktail hour and reception
- Start writing your wedding vows, if needed
- Try on your wedding dress
- Purchase liability insurance for facility, if needed
- Check into joint bank accounts, changing your name, etc.
- Send invitations or make calls for the rehearsal dinner

### **3-4 weeks before**

- Keep up with thank-you notes for shower gifts and early wedding gifts you receive
- Update your wedding registry
- Get your wedding license
- Finalize your jewelry and wedding accessories (something old, new, borrowed, blue)
- Give a list of photos you want taken that day to your photographer
- Discuss final music selections with band or DJ
- Call any guests who have not sent RSVP's by the requested date
- Pick up your wedding rings
- Purchase gifts for attendants, readers, parents, each other, etc.

- Decide on your guest book or choice of guest check-in and purchase what you need
- Confirm honeymoon details; let family know itinerary
- Finalize hair and makeup; meet with stylist
- Make appointment for manicure and pedicure for the day before the ceremony; schedule a massage for the morning of the ceremony if you have time
- Break in your shoes

### **1-2 weeks before**

- Have your final gown fitting and pick up your dress
- Confirm all hair and makeup appointments
- Confirm final headcount and seating chart; give to caterer
- Confirm any rental deliveries and pick-up details
- Finalize your wedding vows
- Get your hair trimmed and colored; make sure the groom does too!
- Confirm wedding day transportation details
- Decide on the receiving line location and order, if needed
- Finalize the schedule for your wedding day; share with the appropriate people
- Delegate responsibilities on wedding day
- Remind all attendants of the rehearsal details
- Write your toasts
- Review seating with ushers
- Pick up your dress and accessories
- Pick up groom's tux and accessories
- Pack for honeymoon and confirm reservations
- Gather items for ceremony box (i.e. marriage license, ring pillow, guest book, etc.)
- Gather items for reception box (i.e. cameras, guest favors, cake topper, etc.)
- Assign someone to oversee ceremony and reception boxes
- Prepare place cards

- Confirm times and locations for all vendors, including photographer, florist, etc.
- Create an emergency kit for the wedding day (i.e. safety pins, sewing kit, deodorant, etc.)
- Keep up with the thank-you notes

### **1-2 days before**

- Give ceremony box to appropriate person and go over instructions
- Give reception box to appropriate person and go over instructions
- Drop off any items that need to go to reception site with instructions and timeline
- Prepare any payments needed, including tips, and put in envelopes
- Assign someone to oversee handling payments; go over instructions
- Assign someone to oversee transporting gifts
- Hand out assignment lists to the appropriate people
- Get manicure and pedicure
- Gather dress, accessories, emergency kit, etc.
- Rehearse ceremony
- Enjoy the rehearsal dinner and give out attendant gifts
- Try to get a good night's sleep!

### **Wedding Day**

- Eat a good breakfast and drink plenty of water
- Enjoy a massage to help you relax
- Get your hair and makeup done (wear a button-down shirt to your appointments)
- Bring dress and accessories to ceremony location, if dressing there
- Enjoy your special day!

### **1-2 weeks afterwards**

- Get your dress cleaned and preserved
- Preserve your bouquet



- Write and mail thank-you notes
- Meet with photographer and videographer; order photos, album and video
- Change your name on bank accounts, credit cards, utilities, etc.
- Live Happily Ever After!