



# What to do AND WHEN

## 12–6 months

- ☐ Announce your engagement
- ☐ Pick the date
- ☐ Start working on your guest list
- ☐ Decide on and invite your wedding party
- ☐ Develop a budget, taking into consideration family contributions
- ☐ Plan on attending local wedding shows
- ☐ Research and visit wedding and reception venues (p. 32)
- ☐ Create a wedding notebook to keep yourself organized
- ☐ Create a wedding website (see our blog for advice)
- ☐ Select your wedding party
- ☐ Book blocks of hotel rooms in varying price ranges for out-of-town guests
- ☐ Hire a wedding planner
- ☐ Order your dress and veil
- ☐ Book an officiant
- ☐ Hire your photographer and videographer
- ☐ Pick out your DJ or band
- ☐ Research and book caterers and florists
- ☐ Start shopping for a dress

## 6–4 months

- ☐ Create your wedding website
- ☐ Send save-the-date cards
- ☐ Register for gifts
- ☐ Select an invitation style and determine the proper wording
- ☐ Shop for your bridesmaids' dresses
- ☐ Determine what the groom and groomsmen will wear
- ☐ Discuss ceremony ideas and wording with your officiant
- ☐ Set up premarital counseling (some officiants require this)
- ☐ Book honeymoon and make travel arrangements
- ☐ Purchase your wedding rings
- ☐ Select a baker and confirm wedding cake and decorations
- ☐ Reserve rental equipment (tent, chairs, tables, etc.)
- ☐ Schedule tastings with your selected caterer
- ☐ Finalize floral arrangements
- ☐ Select a playlist with your band or DJ
- ☐ Arrange transportation to and from your wedding
- ☐ Order personalized wedding favors

## 4–2 months

- ☐ Finalize guest list
- ☐ Invite friends and family to give toasts
- ☐ Select a hair stylist and makeup artist
- ☐ Consider teeth whitening
- ☐ Sign up for dance classes
- ☐ Finalize menu
- ☐ Arrange rehearsal dinner
- ☐ Mail invitations four to six weeks prior to the big day
- ☐ Update your wedding website
- ☐ Take engagement photos

## One month

- ☐ Organize RSVPs and contact guests who haven't responded
- ☐ Get marriage license
- ☐ Try on wedding dress with shoes for final fitting
- ☐ Assign seating for reception
- ☐ Finalize your playlist
- ☐ Check bridal party attire
- ☐ Practice your first dance
- ☐ Find someone to watch your home or feed pets during honeymoon
- ☐ Review "must have" shots with photographer and videographer
- ☐ Meet with hair stylist and makeup artist for a test run
- ☐ Begin writing thank you notes for early wedding gifts
- ☐ Write vows and toasts
- ☐ Update your registry

## 2–1 weeks

- ☐ Confirm final guest count and wedding day schedule with all vendors
- ☐ Confirm all transportation arrangements
- ☐ Confirm times and locations for photo sessions
- ☐ Share wedding day schedule with wedding party and family members
- ☐ Book a spa treatment
- ☐ Organize wedding dress, shoes and all accessories, including jewelry and bridal emergency kit



- ☐ Pack for wedding night and honeymoon
- ☐ Decide who will take home your reception gifts
- ☐ Assign people to do reception site cleanup

## The day before

- ☐ Prepare payment envelopes for vendors and determine how they will be delivered
- ☐ Rehearse ceremony with officiant and wedding party

## On your wedding day

- ☐ Give yourself plenty of time to get ready
- ☐ Take a quiet moment to yourself
- ☐ Eat a nutritious breakfast and drink plenty of fluids
- ☐ Exchange gifts with your betrothed
- ☐ Have fun and enjoy the biggest celebration of your life!