

BRIDE'S PLANNER

A wedding should be planned in stages with every decision made as early as possible. Begin by setting deadlines, then check off each task as you complete it.

6-12 MONTHS

- Choose the kind of wedding you will have, date and time.
- Discuss the budget, and who will pay for what.
- Make arrangements with the officiator.
- Reserve the wedding and reception locations.
- Select your wedding dress, veil and accessories.
- Choose the bridesmaids, groomsmen, ushers, and honored roles.
- Have formal black/white photo sitting for announcements.
- Send announcements of your engagement to bride's and groom's local and hometown newspapers.
- Meet with the florist, photographer, caterer, videographer, and D.J.
or entertainment to discuss budgets and options.
- Draw up guest list with fiancé and families.
- Plan reception music and reserve band or orchestra.
- Contact rental coordinator for equipment reservations.
- Discuss honeymoon and reservations. (Traditionally the groom makes all the honeymoon arrangements.)
- Arrange for time off work if necessary.
- Buy a good sturdy notebook to store brochures and notes. Develop record-keeping system for invitations, R.S.V.P.'s, gifts, and thank-you notes.

4-6 MONTHS

- Plan new living arrangements and home furnishings.
- Select and register wedding gifts and patterns.
- Select color scheme.
- Order dress and accessories.
- Order bridesmaid's dresses, shoes and accessories.
- Contact men's formalwear specialist for men's attire.
- Have parents select attire.
- Order invitations, announcements, programs, napkins, matchbooks, and thank-you notes.
- Arrange for physical examinations.

2 MONTHS

- Choose wedding bands and engraving.
- Order wedding cake.
- Check marriage license requirements.
- Plan ceremony, reception, menus, master of ceremonies, and music.
- Plan rehearsal dinner, and bridesmaids' luncheon.
- Complete guest list and address invitations.
- Make arrangements for lodging for out-of-town guests.
- Purchase gifts for attendants and groom.
- Plan reception seating if necessary.

1 MONTH

- Confirm all arrangements and contracts.
- Mail invitations so they will arrive three weeks before the wedding.
- Pick up wedding rings.
- Arrange for transportation to ceremony and from ceremony to reception.
- Attend final fittings.
- Have your hair and makeup done as you would like to have it on your wedding. Schedule any tanning, manicures, etc.
- Purchase guest book and keepsake album.
- Contact your insurance agent about naming your fiancé as beneficiary on your life insurance, will, and auto policies, and about buying homeowners' and floater insurances to protect wedding gifts.
- Open joint checking and savings accounts. Decide on a budget and savings program. Discuss them with your financial representatives.
- Write thank-you notes as gifts are received.

2 WEEKS

- Get marriage license.
- Give caterer final guest count. Don't forget the wedding party, photographer and DJ!
- Arrange to have your own gown pressed and delivered.
- Arrange to change your name on driver's license, social security card, credit cards, bank accounts, insurance, etc.
- Make arrangements for moving into your new home.

1 WEEK

- Pack for honeymoon.
- Give bridesmaids' luncheon/party, give attendant gifts.
- Confirm directions, housing, timetables with attendants.
- Brief head usher of any special seating arrangements.
- Arrange for rental returns.

1 DAY BEFORE

- Pack the "Going-to-church" bag, and "emergency" bag.
- Attend rehearsal and rehearsal dinner.
- Find a quiet moment to give your fiancé his wedding gift.

THE WEDDING DAY

- Have a nice relaxed breakfast.
- Have hair and make-up done.
- Relax and let the planning take care of itself.

