WEDDING TIMELINE PLANNER

Start with the timeline below, and set deadlines for yourselves.

If you have fewer than six months to plan your wedding, don't panic; just get started as soon as possible.

Never allow the details to overshadow the joy of your wedding event.

six or more months ahead.

Think about the type of wedding you want——formal or informal, big or small——and the time of year you want it to take place.

q Set your budget.

q Hire wedding coordinator, if desired

q Finalize wedding date.

q Reserve ceremony and reception sites.

q Order dress and accessories, including veil and shoes.

q Choose bridal party and helpers.

q Compile guest list, and organize addresses.

q Order wedding cake.

q Book florist.

q Book music for ceremony and reception.

q Book photographer and videographer.

q Plan and book honeymoon.

q Book officiate.

q Book caterer.

four to six months ahead

q Reserve rental equipment, such as tables, chairs, and tents.

q Arrange any transportation for the wedding day.

q Register for gifts.

q Purchase or reserve groom's attire.

q Order stationery, including invitations and thank-you notes; book calligrapher, if using.

q Include and pre wedding photos and photographers on line ordering details for guests on stationery.

q Purchase wedding rings.

q Choose bridesmaids and all attendants' attire.

two to four months ahead

q Buystockings and any special lingerie your dress requires.

q Reserve accommodations for out-of-town guests.

q Choose gifts for wedding party.

q Write your wedding vows, if you choose.

q Discuss details of menu with caterer.

q Discuss service with officiate.

q Choose readings for ceremony.

q Book a room for wedding night.

q Sign up for dance lessons.

q Schedule rehearsal time and rehearsal dinner

q Write thank-you notes as gifts arrive

q Mail invitations.

q Try out makeup and hairstyle.

one to two months ahead

q Buy guest book.

q Obtain marriage license, and request certified copies.

q Have programs printed.

q Send photographer group lists and any other shots you would like.

two weeks ahead

q Have final dress fitting with shoes, accessories, and lingerie.

q Notify caterer of guest count.

q Address announcements.

q Designate someone to look after your home while you are on your honeymoon.

q Begin seating plan, and write place cards.

q Write toasts for rehearsal dinner and wedding reception.

q Break in wedding shoes at home.

q Find out where your guests will be staying, if you plan to deliver welcome notes or gifts to their rooms.

one week ahead

q Finalize seating plan.

q Pick up dress or have it delivered.

q Confirm honeymoon arrangements, and give your itinerary to a friend or family member in case of emergency.

q Pack for honeymoon

q Assign specific responsibilities, such as handing out corsages and boutonnieres, to members of your wedding party.

q Confirm details with caterer.

q Update caterer with final guest and vendor meal counts.

one day ahead

q Confirm transportation arrangements for ceremony & reception.

q Give announcements to an attendant for mailing after the wedding.

q Hold rehearsal dinner; give gifts to wedding party.

q Prepare tip and payment envelopes for officiant and suppliers, and make arrangements for someone to distribute them.

q Have manicure and pedicure.

q Rehearse ceremony.

q If you choose, give gifts to parents to thank them for their support.

If you intend to change your name, prepare the necessary documents.

q Send change-of-address information to post office.

q Contact local newspapers about publishing wedding announcement

notes

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your wedding day

Relax, and enjoy yourselves!