

Bride's One Year Wedding Planner

Organization and advanced planning will help to make your wedding and reception a more pleasurable (and less stressful) experience. You should begin to do the work for a large formal wedding at least a year in advance. To follow will be a fairly complete list of reminders, organized on a time line. While there are no exact right and wrongs, this should give you a good list to work from. If you include your fiancé in the planning process it will create a special bond between you two. Even if you are planning a much smaller wedding and reception, this will give you some things to remember.

2 to 5 Years Prior to Wedding:

> Select Your Groom (ONLY KIDDING!!)

12 Months or More in Advance:

- > Decide on an approximate number of guests
- > Discuss number to be in the bridal party
- > Try to target a budget
- > Buy wedding rings
- > Plan reception details: main color, centerpieces, favors, decorations, rice, bubbles, sparklers, etc.
- > Discuss honeymoon
- > Discuss a meeting with clergy / pre marital counselor

> Choose Ceremony Location: _____ Phone: _____

> Choose Reception Location: _____ Phone: _____

6 to 8 Months in Advance:

- > Order wedding gown
- > Choose attendants
- > Compile actual guest list
- > Select veil & accessories
- > Reserve transportation: limousine, horse & Carriage, taxis, hotel guest shuttle, etc.
- > Select music/entertainment for reception: _____ Phone: _____
- > Select photographer: _____ Phone: _____
- > Select caterer: _____ Phone: _____
- > Select florist: _____ Phone: _____
- > Select videographer: _____ Phone: _____
- > Select bridal registry: _____
- > Select host hotel: _____ Phone: _____
- > Select cake maker and order cake: _____ Phone: _____

4 to 6 Months in Advance:

- > Make sure all attendants have been asked and have accepted
- > Select and Order attendant's gowns
- > Select and Order groomsman's attire
- > Book honeymoon
- > If booked Music In Motion, mail back pink 3 page Wedding Reception Planner
- > Make reservations for rehearsal dinner
- > Order Wedding Invitations, personal stationary, wedding programs & thank you notes
- > Decide on the new place of residence
- > Set appointments for physicals
- > Update Immunization
- > Order Passports
- > Double check all contracts and deposits are in
- > Book honeymoon (air, hotel, etc)
- > Make hotel block for out of town guests (consider high and low cost options)
- > Post hotel options for guests on social media

2 Months in Advance:

- > Address Invitations
- > Select attendants gifts
- > Check local newspaper for wedding announcement deadlines
- > Set date with fiancé to go together and get the marriage license
- > Reserve any last minute items for ceremony and reception
- > Buy or Collect garter, cake knife, toasting glasses, ring pillow & guest book
- > Give 2 months notice at old residence
- > Repost hotel reminders for guests on social media

1 Month in Advance:

- > Mail wedding invitations
- > Arrange final fitting for gown
- > Remind attendants for final fittings
- > Test any new hair styles and make up you are considering
- > Begin final push to be the best you possible (tan, diet, sleep, etc.)
- > Buy groom a wedding gift
- > Have a formal wedding portrait taken with the groom
- > Make reservation for a bridesmaid's luncheon
- > Confirm honeymoon reservations
- > Check on luggage and passports for honeymoon
- > Buy something special for night 1 of honeymoon
- > Ask a friend or relative (not an attendant) to be responsible for the guestbook
- > Contact any invitees who have not responded

2 Weeks in Advance:

- > Record all wedding gifts as you receive them and mail thank you notes promptly
- > Double check attire and accessories for you, the groom and all attendants

- > Confirm time and date of rehearsal with all members of the wedding party
- > Review reception seating and prepare seating cards if needed
- > Make arrangements to consolidate and move all personal items and furnishings for new residence
- > Schedule appointment with hairdresser and manicurist
- > Arrange name and address change on bank accounts, ATM cards, credit cards, driver's license, social security cards, utilities & forward mail from old address
- > prearrange a professional to preserve gown and any floral to be stored.

1 Week in Advance:

- > You will receive a call from Music in Motion, make final call to florist, caterer and photographer
- > Give final head count to caterer and reception venue
- > Host bridesmaids' luncheon
- > Begin packing for honeymoon
- > Call your dad and talk just because
- > Get plenty of rest & reduce salt and alcohol to maximize wedding pictures
- > Consider scheduling a massage or facial as added stress reliever

Wedding Day:

- > Have hair and makeup done
- > Remember to take marriage license and rings to ceremony
- > Allow yourself 2 hours to dress prior to walk in time at ceremony
- > Rely on the professionals you have chosen to handle their parts. You concentrate on making memories and taking in every second of the day. This is YOUR DAY, ENJOY IT!!!

Good Luck And Best Wishes!!

Sean Hearn

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