

Plan...Plan...Plan and enjoy the ride! Your wedding will be here before you know it. Best of luck with your big day and we hope this list of reminders will help you stay on schedule. *Congrats!*

12 MONTHS PRIOR TO THE WEDDING:

- Determine your budget – This will help you not overspend and gives you a realistic goal of where you can get the most bang for your buck!
- Choose your wedding attendants and ask them to be part of your ‘Best Day Ever’.
- Decide on colors for decorations and clothing options for attendants.
- Book your wedding venue as soon as you find the best fit. The earlier, the better.
- Engagement Photo time! This is a great opportunity to try out a photographer that you are considering for the wedding.
- Engagement Announcement Party! Go ahead and start the celebrations!

8-10 MONTHS OUT:

- Shop for THE dress! Ordering can take months to arrive...be prepared for that.
- Decide on and book your entertainment: DJ, Vocalists, Band, Pianist, etc.
- Start booking your vendors:
 - Caterers
 - Florist
 - Reception Entertainment
 - Photographer
 - Videographer
 - Wedding Designer/Planner
 - Hairstylist/Make-up Artist
- Decide where you want to go for your honeymoon. (My tip is to check with Travel Agents. They can typically save you money, they don’t cost you anything, and they can get you ‘extras’ that you cannot get. Try it...you’ll love it)
- Register for gifts.
- Send your ‘Save the Date’ announcements.

6-8 MONTHS AWAY:

- Order your invitations.
- Order bridesmaids’ dresses. Some designs can take a few months to arrive.
- Cake tastings! Try a few bakeries. Some will charge for a tasting but will apply that fee to your order. Take them pictures of your ideas.
- Plan and hire your wedding day transportation.
- Book your hairstylist and/or makeup artist.
- Order your Passport if required for the honeymoon.

3 MONTHS PRIOR:

- Enjoy your bridal showers!
- Address your invitations to take your time and not be rushed.
- Rent the Formal Wear if necessary.

2 MONTHS OUT:

- Mail your invitations.
- Purchase gifts for your parents, attendants, and your fiancé.
- Plan a trial run for your hairstylist and/or makeup artist.

ONE MONTH COUNTDOWN:

- Apply for your marriage license.
- Schedule your final fitting for your wedding dress.
- Make any last-minute adjustments with your vendors if necessary.
- Create your wedding program and/or seating chart.

2 WEEKS AWAY:

- Review the final RSVP list and call any guests who have not responded. Your final count is VERY important to your venue, caterer, and wedding planner.
- Create your “must have shots” for your photographer. Remember to include who needs to be in your formal shots and decide when portraits can be taken. (Before or after the ceremony)
- Determine your final song list for your DJ or Band. (You might want to have a list of “do not play” songs as well)
- Get your last pre-wedding haircut or color.

ONE WEEK BEFORE:

- Provide caterer and venue with final guest count. (Don't forget to count vendors like your DJ, Photographer, band members, etc.)
- Confirm your table layout with your venue and create seating chart if applicable.
- Call ALL vendors and confirm arrangements. Be sure to schedule every delivery and setup times with your venue.
- Determine wedding party positions during the ceremony and the order of the wedding party in the processional and recessional. Give this information to your wedding planner or day-of coordinator.

ONE DAY TO GO:

- Write checks if applicable.
- Rehearse ceremony. Bring unity candle (or whatever you decide to use, if any) to the site for practice.
- Give your marriage license to the officiant.
- Present attendants with gifts and enjoy your rehearsal dinner.

YOUR WEDDING DAY IS HERE!

- Pray together. Mark 10:9 says, “What God has joined together, let no one separate.” Our prayer is that God will bless your marriage and you will enjoy many years of marital bliss.
- Relax! You’ve planned this day for a long time and it will be beautiful! Today, you get to marry your best friend and be well on your way to your own ‘Happily Ever After’.
- Give the wedding bands to the Maid of Honor and Best Man.
- Give the Best Man the Officiant’s Fee envelope to be handed off after the ceremony.
- Assign a family member to be the photographer’s contact so they know who’s who.
- Stay hydrated! Drink plenty of water and keep the pre-wedding alcohol to a minimum. Your guests don’t want to see a tipsy groom or bride stumble down the aisle.
- Give your Maid of Honor an extra tube of your lipstick. Let her help you stay fresh looking all night long.
- Periodically use breath spray. Everyone around you will appreciate that!
- If you are willing to take some pictures prior to the ceremony, it will help save time after. A ‘First Look’ can be just as sweet as your spouse seeing you at the ceremony for the first time.
- After the ceremony, take 5-10 minutes to connect with your new spouse. Just love on each other for a few minutes while your guests get to the reception. Enjoy being married for a few minutes before joining your guests.
- Stay on schedule for the reception, cake cutting, and send off.
- Assign someone else to make sure the venue is cleared of your belongings. Let someone else take care of that so you can enjoy your wedding day!
- Enjoy being married to your best friend!