

timeline checklist

IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE DECIDING WHAT TO DO AND WHEN TO DO IT IN THE MONTHS LEADING UP TO YOUR WEDDING, USE THIS HANDY CHECKLIST TO KEEP EVERYTHING IN ORDER AS YOU COUNT DOWN TO THE BIG DAY.

9-12 months before:

- Select a date and time for your wedding
- Arrange for parents to get together, possibly at an engagement party
- Interview wedding planners if using one
- Discuss budget with everyone contributing financially, establish priorities, including honeymoon expenses
- Select your officiant and visit with him or her to discuss wedding arrangements
- Narrow down ceremony and reception sites and book them
- Select a catering service if one is not provided by reception site
- Begin compiling guest list

6-9 months before:

- Book photographer and videographer
- Book ceremony musicians and reception band or DJ
- Select florist
- Start considering items for registry
- Choose members of wedding party
- Select bridesmaids' dresses
- Shop for and order bridal gown and accessories
- Start researching honeymoon spots, select travel agent if using one
- Mail out save-the-date cards, especially for destination or holiday weddings

4-6 months before:

- Order wedding invitations, thank-you notes and personal stationery
- Shop for the cake
- Reserve location of rehearsal dinner
- Arrange accommodations for out-of-town guests
- Meet with travel agent to plan your honeymoon; make reservations; secure necessary travel documents
- Reserve wedding-day transportation (to the church, from the church to the reception, and from the reception to where you'll spend your wedding night)
- Put the finishing touches on the guest list

2-4 months before:

- Select and order formalwear for men; schedule fittings
- Finish addressing invitations
- Meet with caterer to discuss the plans for your reception meal
- Complete honeymoon plans
- Research requirements for marriage license
- Make appointment with photographer for bridal portrait
- Select and order your wedding rings
- Make appointments with hairstylist/makeup consultant for portrait sitting, rehearsal dinner and wedding day
- Select gifts for attendants
- Choose favors and guest book
- Order the cake
- Book a room for your wedding night