

Easy Checklist for Your Perfect Wedding

Reprinted from the West Michigan Bride Planner Publication

Nine months before the wedding

- ◆ Announce your engagement
- ◆ Discuss the formality, size, and location of the wedding/reception with both families
- ◆ Set the wedding date and time
- ◆ Meet with clergyman or judge to confirm date and time
- ◆ Reserve site for the ceremony

Eight months to go

- ◆ Discuss wedding budget with your parents
- ◆ Determine the approximate number of guests
- ◆ Reserve reception site
- ◆ Select wedding and engagement rings and arrange for engraving

Seven months to go

- ◆ Have your engagement party
- ◆ Begin making your guest list
- ◆ Discuss honeymoon plans
- ◆ Begin shopping for wedding attire

Five months to go

- ◆ Talk to the wedding official and organist about music, decorations and procedure at the ceremony
- ◆ Select readings and music for the ceremony
- ◆ Select music for the reception
- ◆ Schedule rehearsal dinner
- ◆ Get a list of services and menu possibilities from the caterer or other reception contact

Four months to go

- ◆ Register at gift and department stores
- ◆ Meet with the caterer or club manager to plan reception details
- ◆ Meet with florist, photographer and baker
- ◆ Complete honeymoon plans and make hotel and travel reservations
- ◆ Make doctor and dental appointments
- ◆ Shop for your trousseau

Three months to go

- ◆ Order invitations, announcements and other stationery
- ◆ Select attire for the groom and groomsmen
- ◆ Confirm delivery dates of all attire and schedule fittings from bridal and bridesmaids' gowns
- ◆ Purchase wedding album and guest books
- ◆ Schedule wedding portrait

Two months to go

- ◆ Address invitations
- ◆ Select bridesmaids' and groomsmen's gifts
- ◆ Have formal bridal portraits taken
- ◆ Make lodging arrangements for out-of-town guests and attendants
- ◆ Arrange transportation for bridal party to and from the ceremony and reception sites
- ◆ Coordinate menu plan from the rehearsal dinner with the groom's family
- ◆ Finalize the arrangements for flowers, menu, wedding cake(s) and music
- ◆ Change insurance policies, charge accounts, bank accounts, will, driver's license and Social Security listing to reflect name and/or address change
- ◆ Write wedding announcement for newspapers
- ◆ Make appointment with hairdresser from the day of or day before your wedding

One month to go

- ◆ Mail invitations
- ◆ Send maps to out-of-town guests
- ◆ Set up table for wedding gifts
- ◆ Record all gifts and write thank-you notes as gifts arrive
- ◆ Notify the wedding party of rehearsal time and invite guests to the rehearsal dinner
- ◆ Make bags of rose petals or rice for throwing as you leave the reception
- ◆ Make arrangements for a dressing place for the bridesmaids
- ◆ Make a household check for home furnishings that are still needed

One to two weeks to go

- ◆ Double-check all arrangements
- ◆ Have blood tests done and pick up marriage license
- ◆ Have final fittings for all attire
- ◆ Address and stamp announcements
- ◆ Record each gift as it is received and write a thank-you note promptly
- ◆ Check on all accessories for wedding outfit and for bridesmaids' outfits
- ◆ Provide photographer with a list of desired photographs
- ◆ Send wedding announcement to photographer
- ◆ Draw up a seating plan for reception: make place cards for bride's table
- ◆ Give caterer or reception contact a final estimate of number of people attending
- ◆ Pack for honeymoon

The day before the wedding

- ◆ Have your hair done
- ◆ Have a manicure, pedicure and facial
- ◆ Attend bridesmaids' luncheon; give gifts to attendants
- ◆ Attend rehearsal and rehearsal dinner