Wedding Plan - Timeline

9 to 12 Months Before Wedding

- Announce engagement
- Select wedding date and time
- Decide type of wedding you want (location, size, formality, guest number, time)
- Determine wedding budget & who will pay what expenses
- Develop organization system (costs, contacts, schedule, etc)
- Begin guest list (must, should and could invitees, children allowed)
- Shop together for wedding rings

- Obtain passport, visa, birth certificate for honeymoon or marriage license
- Consider honeymoon location
- Consider home & garden improvements if wedding is at home
- Start health and fitness plan

- Book wedding consultant
- Book wedding & reception site(s)
- Book officiant
- Book photographer

- Select color scheme
- Select your dress and headpiece, set date fittings and delivery dates.
- Choose attendants/ushers & identify their sizes
- Select attendants dresses and accessories

6 to 9 Months Before Wedding

- Check marriage license requirements
- Reserve wedding night lodging

- Book additional professionals: videographer, caterer, florist
- Book ceremony musicians
- Book reception musicians or DJ
- Decide upon a gift registry and select your gift choices

- Select flower girl & ring bearer
- Assign wedding responsibilities to wedding party
- Select and discuss color schemes with florist and/or balloonist
- Select attendants/ushers clothing, shoes, & accessories
- Schedule fitting dates for yourself, attendants, flower girl, & ring bearer

4 to 6 Months Before Wedding

- Shop for bride & groom gifts to each other
- Finalize guest list.
- Order invitations, thank you cards, programs, seating cards, etc.
- Begin honeymoon planning

- Book rehearsal dinner location, date, time
- Register for gifts
- Reserve rental items (tables, chairs, china, silverware, gazebo, etc.)
- Book miscellaneous services (valet parking, entertainment, etc.)
- Review written agreements with all professionals (photographer, caterer, etc.)
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- Block accommodations for visiting guests
- Help both mothers coordinate and find their wedding day clothing
- Purchase shoes & accessories (break in shoes!)
- Order/purchase gifts for attendants
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1½ to 4 Months Before Wedding

- Take engagement portraits
- Place engagement announcement in newspaper
- Mail invitations – include lodging options & maps (ceremony, reception, lodging)
- Begin record of RSVPs
- Begin record of gifts received & send thank you notes upon receipt of each gift
- Arrange a dedicated area in your home to store/display gifts
- Finalize honeymoon plans
- Confirm marriage license requirements

- Purchase wedding day accessories (guest book, ring pillow, toasting glasses, etc.)
- Order party favors & decorations
- Book wedding day transportation
- Book hairdresser, makeup, and manicure appointments
- Book baker & choose wedding cake & groom's cake
- Finalize menu, beverage, & alcohol order(s)
- Consider dental enhancements (bleaching, bonding, etc.)

- Plan activities for attendants/ushers & visiting guests
- Reserve men's clothing (groom, ushers, fathers, & ring bearer)
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2 to 6 Weeks Before Wedding

- Obtain marriage license
- Pick up rings & confirm proper fit
- Create detailed timeline for the wedding day. Distribute to wedding party & service providers.
- Call guests who have not RSVPed
- Continue writing thank you notes
- Begin packing for honeymoon

- Confirm ceremony details with officiant & ceremony site
    - Finalize seating & provide listing to ushers
- Confirm reception site details:
    - Receiving line timing & location
    - Finalize layout of all reception elements
    - Finalize seating & place cards, if needed
- Finalize floral arrangements
    - Bride & bridesmaids bouquets
    - Flower petals for flower girl's basket
    - Corsages for mothers, grandmothers, & other special women
    - Boutonnieres for groom, ushers, fathers, ring bearer, & other special men
- Finalize rehearsal dinner arrangements, including seating
- Finalize plans with photographer (provide list of special photos you want)
- Finalize plans with videographer (provide list of events & people you want taped)
- Finalize music plans (provide list of requested songs & their timing)

- Hold luncheon/dinner with attendants & present their gifts
- Finalize wedding accessories (rings, pillow, garter, etc.)
- Finalize bride's & attendant's accessories (coordinated lipstick, nailpolish, jewelery)
- Purchase your going-away outfit.
- Schedule final wedding dress and head piece fitting
- Have final fitting for attendant dresses
- Obtain something old, new, borrowed, and blue

1 Week Before Wedding

- Complete final guest count & provide to caterer & reception site
- Confirm honeymoon reservations
- Obtain & keep secure all reservation information, tickets, passports, travelers checks
- Complete packing for honeymoon
- Arrange for pet & plant care while on honeymoon. Stop mail & newspapers

- Review/update the detailed timeline for the wedding day with all relevant service providers.
- Confirm assignments for wedding party
    - Someone to bring wedding accessories to the ceremony/reception site
    - Someone to ensure any required clean up is completed after events
    - Someone to return rental items
    - Someone to ensure all personal items are gathered after events
- Finalize arrangements with the entertainer(s) and provide a list of music you would like played during special events such as first dance, garter removal and bouquet toss.
- Have final wedding dress & head piece fitting

The Rehearsal Day

- Put luggage in car
- Give best man checks for service providers that are paid on the wedding day
- Attend ceremony rehearsal
- Attend rehearsal dinner
- Have manicure/pedicure
- Relax a bit. Have a professional massage

The Wedding Day

- Remember to bring the rings and marriage license.
- Give groom's ring to the maid of honor & the bride's ring to the best man
- Follow your detailed Wedding Day Timeline
- Allow plenty of time for your hair to be styled (wear a button up blouse!)
- Complete your make up after hair styling is completed
- Allow at least two hours for dressing.

- Allow 1 to 1 ½ hours for pre wedding photographs
- Ushers seat guests as they arrive.
- Groom's parents are seated about 5 minutes before the ceremony
- Mother of the bride is seated last
- Relax & enjoy, knowing that you have prepared well