

101 Wedding Planning Tips

- ONE YEAR WEDDING COUNTDOWN -



Wedding preparation Timeline

Eight to ten months before the wedding

1. Select and wedding date and time.
2. E-mail a save the date [e-cards](#) to close friends and family.
3. Decide the kind of wedding you would like to have (formalities, size and setting).
4. Start you guest list.
5. Consider possible colour schemes.
6. Investigate pre-marital counseling or compatibility classes.
7. Start a health and fitness regime.
8. Choose your highly qualified wedding [service providers](#) including caterer, photographer, wedding planner, band or music plus décor and florist.
9. Shop together for your wedding bands.
10. Discuss and plan your budget.
11. Decide who will pay what expenses.
12. Reserve your wedding venue.
13. Select your bridal party (maid of honour, bridesmaids, flower girls, bestman and ushers).
14. Settle on the size of your bridal party.
15. Pick [wedding dress](#) styles, head pieces (veil) if necessary and set dates for fittings and delivery.
16. Choose bridesmaids' dresses and accessories.

17. It is common practice to have your bridesmaids pay for their dresses or if they are getting their dresses made. The bride normally pays for the fabric she wishes to use and the bridesmaids cover the cost of getting it custom made. Consider this to help ease the wedding pressure a little.
18. Give your [honeymoon](#) destination some thought.



Five to eight months to go

19. Check the specifications for a marriage license and certificate.
20. Place your engagement announcement in the newspaper.
21. Choose your colour scheme and discuss with the florist and decorator.
22. Decide and book your pre-marital counseling or attend couple to couple classes or speak to your religious figure head. This will definitely help when you jitters and wedding worries.
23. Book your wedding date and rental equipment (if not supplied by the venue).
24. Select the place you would like your gift registry at and start thinking what gifts you would like.
25. Take notes of gifts received and get addresses (physical or email).
26. Send thanks cards out as soon as possible.
27. Meet and decide on your wedding invitations and stationery.
28. Start looking around for the mens' wedding attire.



Three to five months before the wedding

29. Finalise your guest list.
30. Order your invitations and stationery.
31. Browse and do research for distinctive ideas to set your wedding apart from others.
32. Make a decision and order wedding favours.
33. Decide on your wedding cake and meet with your supplier.
34. Meet the mother of the groom and bride and discuss their outfits for the day of the wedding.
35. Review all wedding service provider contracts.

Two to three months to go

36. Mail out invitations and announcements.
37. Select all your gifts on your registry.
38. Come to a decision on the mens' wedding attire.
39. Plan your rehearsal dinner.
40. Remember to have a pair of comfortable shoes for the reception. You feet get very tired after walking all day in your beautiful wedding shoes.
41. Buy your wedding day accessories.
42. Select and order your beverages if your caterer does not do this for you.
43. Organise accommodation for out of town guests.
44. Go for a make-up and hair trial.
45. Make sure you are happy with your hair and your make-up.
46. Purchase gifts for your bridal party.
47. See a mock-up of what your table decorations and flowers will look like and make any necessary changes.
48. Confirm your honeymoon plans and book flights.



Two to four weeks before the wedding

49. Book make-up artist and hair stylist.
50. Arrange your rehearsal dinner.
51. Attend your final wedding dress fitting.
52. Get your marriage license.
53. Buy your going away-outfit if necessary.
54. Have a map for your guest to get to your venue if required.
55. It's a nice touch to organise some fun events for the out of town guest.
56. Make sure you give them an agenda for the wedding day's events.
57. Have all your accessories ready (rings, garter and pillow).
58. Remember to have something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue.
59. Choose your first dance song.
60. Attend dance lessons for your first dance.



One to two weeks before the bid day

61. Confirm with all your wedding service providers.
62. Give your band a list of music that you want played during the first dance, garter removal and the tossing of the bouquet.
63. Pick up your wedding rings and make sure they fit.
64. Discuss table seating.

65. Book your accommodation for the night of the wedding if you are not leaving for honeymoon after the wedding.
66. Have your engagement ring cleaned.
67. Contact guests who have not yet replied to your invite.
68. Send your bridal party a schedule with times for the actual wedding day.
69. Organise transportation you, the bride and groom. You want to arrive in style.
70. Pre-prepare the cheques or cash for your service providers who need to be on the day of the wedding.
71. Attend your bridal shower.

One to seven days before your wedding

72. Make sure your marriage license is in order.
73. Confirm table seating arrangements and give the list to your invitation's company to be printed.
74. Confirm total guest numbers with your caterer or wedding planner.
75. Purchase traveler cheques.
76. Confirm you honeymoon and flight reservations.
77. Pack your bags for your honeymoon and your wedding night (if you are staying over).
78. Remember to pack sexy lingerie for your honeymoon.
79. Go to your wedding ceremony rehearsal.
80. Jump in and give instructions to your bridal party - this is your wedding after all.
81. Have your rehearsal dinner.
82. Give your bridal party their gifts.
83. Check with your bridal party to make sure their dresses and tuxedos fit properly.
84. Give the best man the cheques or money for all the service providers that need to be paid on the day.
85. Double check that all out of town guests have transportation organized for the day.
86. Check those guests who have traveled far have accommodation.
87. Confirm with the florist and decorator that they will arrive on schedule.
88. Make sure you have your wedding dress delivered to your venue where you will be getting married or to your home a few days before.
89. Get your beauty sleep the night before your wedding.

90. If you are having a professional make-up artist and hair stylist just check how much time they will need so you can plan your day.

The Big day has finally arrived



91. Relax, have fun and try staying calm. Make sure you have at least 2 hours to get ready.
92. You will also need ample to time for your make-up and hair.
93. Remember to put your garter and a penny in your shoe.
94. Be sure to wear something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue.
95. Photographs before the ceremony will take about one and a half hours.
96. Once you get to the reception and the dancing starts try not to mess you hair and make-up, so that your video (DVD) will be beautiful.
97. Don't forget the rings and marriage license.
98. Seat guests when they arrive.
99. Remember to thank everyone for all their hard work and effort.
100. Take a deep breathe, don't stress, smile and just enjoy.
101. During the party take a moment and look around the room. Look at the décor and ambiance - capture that moment and remember it for the rest of your life!