

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:

- Register your engagement on stlbestbridal.com and receive your free magazine
- 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

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4-8 weeks before:

- Pick up wedding rings and arrange for engraving
- Have final fitting of wedding gown
- Have a run-through of bridal hair (with headpiece if applicable) and makeup
- Make sure attendants have arranged fittings for bridesmaids' dresses, tuxedos and shoes
- Plan menus for rehearsal dinner
- Select gift for groom
- Draw up seating plan for ceremony and reception
- Submit song lists to ceremony musicians and reception band or DJ
- Finalize plans with all wedding vendors
- Mail invitations, preferably six weeks before the wedding
- Decide on insurance policies, name-change documents

2-4 weeks before:

- Have your final dress fitting
- Have bridal portrait taken
- Announce wedding in your local Suburban Journal
- Make sure the name on your photo ID and/or passport will match your honeymoon plane tickets/reservations and start packing
- Review guest list and provide caterer with final count
- Finalize seating arrangements and finish place cards for the reception
- Provide wedding party with rehearsal/wedding day schedule
- Make arrangements for gift transport from reception
- Make arrangements for post wedding day gown and bouquet preservation

1 week before:

- Delegate wedding day responsibilities to reliable individuals
- Finalize rehearsal and rehearsal dinner arrangements; confirm attendance of all invited
- Confirm all honeymoon details, pack for the honeymoon
- Double-check details with all wedding vendors
- Attend bachelor/bachelorette parties

One or two days before:

- Get a massage, manicure and pedicure (purchase a bottle of nail polish in the shade you're wearing in case you need to touch up)
- Attend rehearsal and review all the details with your participants
- Enjoy rehearsal dinner with family and friends; present wedding party and parents with thank-you gifts
- Place fees due on the wedding day in envelopes
- Get a good night's sleep

The big day:

- Eat a healthy breakfast
- Allow plenty of time to get dressed
- Have hair and makeup done
- Make sure wedding certificate is signed by best man and maid/matron of honor
- Have dry snacks and bottled water available in dressing area
- Cherish each moment of this special day