

WEDDING CHECKLIST

When you become engaged, be sure to send your announcements to your hometown newspaper and your fiancé's (if he lives elsewhere). Most newspapers publish guidelines for the required information. Often, the parents of the bride-to-be celebrate the official announcement with a party for the couple. It may be a cocktail party, a dinner or even a barbecue. The engagement is announced during the party. Informally printed or handwritten invitations read: first line – your parent's names, second line – your name, third line – "to meet John Smith."

6 to 24 months ahead*

- Determine your budget and the kind of wedding (informal, formal, etc.); decide where the ceremony will take place.
- Visit your officiant with your fiancé. Select a service and set the date.
- Consider hiring a wedding consultant.
- Plan a reception.
- Choose your attendants.
- Draw up your invitation list; have your fiancé draw up his.
- Enroll with the bridal gift registry of your favorite department or specialty store.
- Select your dress, veil, accessories and bridesmaids' dresses.
- Consult a men's formalwear specialist.
- Select photographer/videographer, florist, and musicians.

4 to 6 months ahead

- Order your invitations, personal stationery and notepaper.
- Plan accommodations for your out-of-town guests.
- Arrange for your rehearsal dinner.
- Plan your honeymoon.
- Shop for your trousseau.
- Have mothers choose their dresses.
- Visit your doctor for a complete physical examination, set date for blood test (valid time periods vary from state to state).

2 to 4 months ahead

- Address wedding invitations.
- Select your wedding reception music.
- Choose gifts for your attendants.
- Buy wedding rings; order engraving.
- Make date with your fiancé to get the marriage license. (Check your state's law to see how many days a license is valid.)

1 to 2 months ahead

- Buy wedding gift for your groom.
- Make appointment with hairstylist.
- Consider hiring a professional makeup artist for your wedding day.
- Have final dress fittings.
- Plan how to handle traffic, parking.
- Mail your invitations.
- Have a formal wedding portrait taken.
- Attend parties in your honor.
- Plan bridesmaids' party.
- Record each gift as received and write a thank-you note promptly.
- Make a household "check" for home furnishings that are still needed.
- Pick up wedding rings.

2 weeks ahead

- Send your wedding announcement to the newspaper.
- Draw up seating plan for reception; make cards for the bride's table.
- Go over your personal trousseau and take care of any last-minute items.
- If you plan to change your name on Social Security, driver's license, credit cards, bank accounts, contact the necessary offices to obtain the required forms.
- Arrange to move your belongings to your new home.

1 week ahead

- Have final consultation with caterer, florist, and photographer/videographer.
- Give bridesmaids' party.
- Confirm rehearsal plans with clergy and attendants.

***Preferred resources are often booked far in advance. Therefore, some couples begin their planning 18 to 24 months ahead.**