

Bride's Wedding Planning Countdown

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WEDDING DAY MINUS 365 DAYS (OR MORE)

- Announce your engagement
- Hire a **wedding consultant** if you plan to use one
- Set preferred date (but be flexible to obtain your preferred location)
- Develop initial guest list (with help from parents) and initial budget
- Read magazines, wedding planning books and consult web sites for ideas
- Start **gown** shopping. Bring pictures to local salons.
- To ensure availability on your date, start shopping as soon as possible for the following:
Ceremony Site, Reception Site, Photographer, DJ.

WEDDING DAY MINUS 300 DAYS

- If you're having an engagement party, set date and choose invitations.
- Choose attendants/groomsmen and ask them to do you the honor.
- Choose a color scheme.
- Interview caterers (if your reception site does not have on-site catering).
- Shop for **gowns** – consult salons to be sure you're ordering far enough in advance
- Shop for and select **Videographer, Officiant, Flowers and Bridesmaids' Dresses.**

WEDDING DAY MINUS 270 DAYS

- Register. Including national stores and web sites makes shopping easier for guests.
- Arrange wedding cake tastings to select **cake** bakery.
- Reserve **hotel room blocks** for guests, and send Save-the Date cards with hotel info.
- Finalize menu and service details with **caterer**.

WEDDING DAY MINUS 180 DAYS

- Rent **tuxedos** or select other attire for men in the wedding party.
- Schedule engagement photo session.
- Finalize **invitations**: finish guest list, order invitations/thank you cards, hire **calligrapher**.
- Book **honeymoon** and your hotel room for your wedding night. If you'll be traveling outside the country for your honeymoon, confirm that your passport is up to date.

WEDDING DAY MINUS 90 DAYS

- Purchase **accessories** (yours and attendants'), rings, favors, gown undergarments
- Confirm gown delivery date and fitting dates
- Select ceremony participants (readings, special performances)
- Send invitations (eight weeks before wedding date). Double check postage required!
- Arrange wedding day transportation (you, your wedding party, guests as needed)
- Shop for **hair/makeup artists** if you're planning on-location services.

WEDDING DAY MINUS 45 DAYS

- Finalize vows and content of ceremony program (if you're having one)
- Order wine/liquor (if not handled by your caterer)
- Arrange parking and child care for your reception
- Buy guest book and box/basket for cards at gift table (and tape for any loose gift tags)
- Buy and wrap **wedding party gifts**

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WEDDING DAY MINUS 30 DAYS

- Send rehearsal dinner invitations
- Trial runs of wedding day hair and makeup (with veil). Get final pre-wedding haircut.
- Set dental appointment for pre-wedding cleaning.
- Finalize ceremony details with your officiant and finish and print programs.
- Plan wedding day timing and transportation (how bride and groom will get to where they are dressing, etc).
- Communicate rehearsal and wedding day directions, times, and duties to bridal party and guests.
- Obtain garter, something old, something new, etc., if your wedding includes these customs.
- Pick up your gown. Ask your salon how best to store the gown until your wedding day.
- Call guests who haven't RSVP'd to determine final head count.
- Confirm that your vendors will have access to your wedding site when they need it.

WEDDING DAY MINUS 14 DAYS

- Finalize seating plan (if applicable). Make place cards (or supply information to calligrapher).
- Provide final head count to caterer.
- Confirm headcount, delivery time and location with bakery. Obtain box and freezing instructions if you're planning on freezing the top layer of your cake.
- Confirm final payment amounts with your vendors.
- Provide your consultant (if you have one) your seating chart, plus your favors, guest book, baskets, etc., for safekeeping, and final vendor payment envelopes and cash tips.
- Make sure groom and groomsmen pick up and try on tuxes in advance.
- Shop and pack for honeymoon items, and confirm travel details.
- Confirm rehearsal and wedding day schedule and details with your officiant.
- Confirm schedule and location with wedding-day vendors, as well as key details: table count for flowers, "must-have" photos, music selections.
- Confirm schedule and pick-up/destination addresses with transportation providers.
- Determine and confirm any "assignments" for attendants and family members (including collecting wedding gifts for safekeeping) and make necessary lists/information sheets.
- Distribute wedding day contact list, directions and schedule to vendors, attendants, parents.
- Prepare toasts and thank yous for family and friends.
- Pack wedding night bag and ask someone to deliver it to your hotel (along with your car if necessary).
- Get manicure and pedicure and confirm wedding day hair/makeup appointments.
- Arrange for snacks for you and your attendants while you're getting ready.

WEDDING DAY MINUS 1 DAY

- Pack your bag with your gown, veil, shoes, stockings, lingerie and your emergency kit.
- Confirm honeymoon travel details.
- Confirm the best man (or other designee) has rings and marriage license.
- Confirm toasts to be offered/lead at reception.
- Attend rehearsal and rehearsal dinner (a good time to present attendants' gifts).
- Get a good night's sleep!

WEDDING DAY

- Make sure to eat and drink plenty of water.
- This is your only wedding day ... don't forget to enjoy it!

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WEDDING DAY PLUS 1 DAY (AND POST-HONEYMOON)

- Ask a mom or bridesmaid to pick up your gown and other things at your hotel.
- Arrange for gown cleaning and preservation (ask about guarantees).
- Make sure all vendor bills have been paid (especially if overtime charges applied).
- Set aside time for thank you notes (complete within two months of wedding).
- Take film or disposable cameras to be developed.

Bride's Wedding Day Emergency Kit

Pack an overnight bag with the following items, and ask your consultant or a bridesmaid to bring it along. You probably won't need most of these items, but you won't want to be without them if you do!



BEAUTY NEEDS:

- ∞ Nail polish, lipstick (for touch-ups)
- ∞ Nail clipper and file
- ∞ Tissues and an extra handkerchief
- ∞ Bobby pins
- ∞ Hair spray
- ∞ Comb/brush/pick
- ∞ Makeup remover
- ∞ Hand mirror
- ∞ Toothbrush/toothpaste

GARMENT EMERGENCIES:

- ∞ Club soda
- ∞ Stain-remover wipes or detergent pen
- ∞ Clear polish (for stockings)
- ∞ Sewing kit (needle, thread, scissors)
- ∞ Safety pins
- ∞ Tape (duct, double-stick, scotch)
- ∞ Extra earrings/jewelry

- ∞ Extra pantyhose/stockings
- ∞ Extra shoes (e.g., flats)

HEALTH NEEDS:

- ∞ Crackers, fruit (in case anyone forgets to eat)
- ∞ Bottled water
- ∞ Hard candy, mints
- ∞ Band-aids
- ∞ Medicines: *Aspirin/Tylenol/Ibuprofen; antacids; decongestant; any prescriptions*

OTHER POTENTIAL EMERGENCIES:

- ∞ Vendor phone/cell phone contact list
- ∞ Driving directions
- ∞ Super-glue
- ∞ Spare cash
- ∞ Camera/video supplies
- ∞ Umbrella