

# If Your Wedding is...

## 12 months away you should be:

- Announcing your engagement to friends and family
- Establishing a preliminary budget
- Arranging for an engagement photograph
- Determining your wedding style (formality, color, scheme)
- Shopping for a bridal consultant if you plan to use one
- Starting to discuss a wedding date and time
- Starting to discuss the size of your guest list
- Starting to compile a guest list (You'll work with this over and over so formalize your list in Excel or Word.)
- Starting to discuss who is contributing financially
- Searching for your reception location
- Booking your reception location
- Searching for your ceremony location
- Booking your ceremony location
- Browsing for your wedding cake baker, videographer, musicians, florist and caterer

## 11 months away you should be:

- Planning /Attending any engagement parties
- Getting your engagement picture taken
- Announcing your engagement in the newspaper
- Finalizing Guest List
- Ordering and Addressing "Save-the-Dates" (Addressing for Save-the-Dates should be done now whether you use printer's album or in-store services.)
- Ordering thank-you notes so that you can send them out immediately as you'll begin to receive gifts once you announce your engagement. (One final hurrah to use your maiden name/monogram on thank-you notes.)
- Discussing who will perform your ceremony
- Selecting bridal attendants
- Selecting groom's attendants
- Browsing for the bridesmaids' dresses
- Browsing for your wedding gown
- Starting to plan reception
- Researching catering options for the reception
- Researching a caterer
- Researching a photographer
- Researching a videographer
- Researching a florist
- Researching a band or DJ
- Listing out all the rentals you'll need: tent, tables, chairs, linens, china, cutlery, etc.

## 10 months away you should be:

- Getting a guest list count
- Selecting your wedding gown
- Selecting bridesmaids' dresses
- Signing contracts for ceremony and reception locations
- Researching honeymoon ideas
- Hand addressing "Save-the-dates" (In a pinch? You're not committed to hand writing addresses or finding a calligrapher just yet, you still have time to use in-store printing services for addressing the envelopes.)
- Sending "Save-the-dates"

## 9 months away you should be:

- Booking a caterer
- Booking a florist
- Booking a band or DJ
- Booking a photographer
- Booking a videographer
- Booking a wedding cake designer
- Booking your ceremony officiate

## 8 months away you should be:

- Beginning ceremony discussions with officiate
- Beginning any required premarital counseling
- Ordering your bridal gown and confirming delivery date
- Ordering headpiece and other accessories
- Ordering bridesmaids' dresses and accessories
- Researching invitation styles
- Discussing your wedding transportation

## 7 months away you should be:

- Discussing wedding vows
- Reserving all rental equipment
- Deciding on reception décor
- Booking your wedding transportation
- Finalizing all honeymoon plans and making any deposits

## 6 months away you should be:

- Finalizing invitations and wording...Get your proof-reading glasses on
- Ordering invitations ensemble:  
Invitations and or Announcements,  
Response cards, Inserts, Note cards,  
Maps and Direction cards,  
Thank-you notes (Use maiden name/monogram for notes sent before wedding and married name/monogram for notes sent out after the ceremony.)  
You can order your coordinated personalized favors and ceremonial accessories-Guest book and pen, Cake knife and server set, Unity candle, etc.
- Registering for wedding gifts
- Keeping careful track of all gifts received and sending out thank-you notes

## 5 months away you should be:

- Helping the mothers coordinate and select their dresses
- Picking up printed invitations...proof again before leaving store!
- Arranging for guest parking at the ceremony and reception site
- Selecting flowers for the bridal party
- Selecting flowers for the ceremony
- Selecting flowers for the reception
- Discussing whether or not to have a prenuptial agreement
- Researching passport and visa requirements

## 4 months away you should be:

- Choosing and purchasing wedding bands
- Planning ceremony decorations
- Finalizing decisions for ceremony including readings, vocals, etc.
- Reserving men's formal wear
- Addressing invitations and/or announcements (If you didn't have printer do the addressing you can still use in-store printing services or hire a calligrapher instead of hand-writing the addresses.)
- Finalizing guest list with updated addresses from Save-the-dates...How handy is that Excel file?
- Making or buying favors for guests
- Finalizing the menu
- Confirming all details with the caterer
- Ordering the cake
- Checking requirements for marriage license and blood tests in your state
- Making an appointment for a physical exam with your doctor/dentist
- Planning a rehearsal dinner

### 3 months away you should be:

- Coordinating accommodations for out of town guests
- Reviewing the ceremony with the officiant
- Selecting ceremony music
- Beginning to write personalized wedding vows
- Scheduling first bridal gown fitting
- Scheduling first bridesmaids' gown fittings
- Shopping for bridal lingerie...Ooh la la!
- Experimenting with make-up and hairstyles
- Making all hair, nail and make-up appointments
- Making sure outfits/accessories for flower girl and ring bearer have been ordered
- Discussing reception traditions you plan on using
- Informing band/DJ of reception traditions you plan on using
- Ordering place cards, table numbers and menu cards for reception if using printer's album
- Taking dance lessons, if desired
- Finalizing plans for wedding rehearsal
- Finalizing plans for rehearsal dinner, reserve restaurant or hall
- Preparing all maps, directions and accommodations for the ceremony and reception if you didn't already have them done when you ordered invitations
- Shopping for any honeymoon clothes
- Mailing out complete Invitation Ensembles now if you didn't send save-the-dates

## 2 months away you should be:

- Picking up wedding rings
- Finalizing ceremony details with officiant
- Setting the dates and times with the officiant for the rehearsal
- Finalizing ceremony and reception music (preferences to play/not play) with band/DJ
- Selecting responsible person to handle guest book
- Scheduling and attending dress fittings
- Putting together directions and accommodation cards for out of town guests
- Mailing Invitation Ensembles...two months is enough time if you sent out save-the-dates
- Designing and ordering wedding programs if using a printer's album
- Confirming final reception details
- Gathering up all accessories for ceremony and reception including: toasting goblets, cake knife with server, ring pillow, garter, throwing bouquet, candles etc.
- Giving a head count to caterer, reviewing details...any guests with special needs, allergies etc.
- Confirming final details, delivery with florist
- Confirming final details with photographer
- Confirming final details with videographer
- Confirming the wedding cake details, delivery with the baker
- Planning bridesmaids' party
- Making rehearsal arrangements
- Buying a wedding guest book and pen, not personalized
- Setting the dates and times with the officiant for the rehearsal

## 1 month away you should be:

- Buying a gift for the groom/bride
- Buying thank-you gifts for your attendants
- Attending final dress fittings
- Breaking in bridal footwear
- Purchasing a going away outfit
- Designating someone to mail announcements
- Giving all musicians the list of music to be played
- Scheduling a final fitting for your gown so it can be ready for your formal bridal portrait
- Having the formal bridal portrait taken
- Giving the photographer a list of pictures you want
- Giving the videographer a list of desired shots
- Hosting bridesmaids' party
- Completing all physical and dental appointments
- Getting blood tests and marriage license
- Getting needed forms to change your name
- Preparing a portrait and announcement for the newspaper...Check your local newspaper for details and deadlines
- Making sure all bridesmaids' attire has been fitted

## 2 Weeks Before You Should Be:

- Contacting guests who have not responded
- Confirming final guest count with reception site and caterer
- Planning the seating for the reception as well as other details for the ceremony and reception
- Ordering Place cards, Menu cards, and Table cards from in-store printing services
- Starting to write place cards if you choose to hand write
- Printing donation favor cards
- Ordering thank-you notes with your new name/monogram for post ceremony thank-you notes
- Confirming that all vendors received necessary payments
- Preparing any wedding toasts
- Arranging for someone to be in charge of gifts that will be brought to the reception
- Making arrangements to have your wedding gifts moved to your new home
- Handling business and legal details such as name changes, address changes, etc.
- Reconfirming your guests' accommodations...again trust us...reconfirm.
- Making sure all clothing and accessories for you and the bridal party are ready
- Attending the bachelor/bachelorette party
- Writing a detailed wedding day schedule
- Continuing to write thank-you notes immediately

## One Week Before You Should Be:

- Reviewing any seating details with the ushers
- Picking up wedding gown
- Picking up bridesmaids' dresses
- Picking up groom's attire
- Making sure all wedding attire fits...fingers crossed!
- Giving transportation provider a schedule with addresses for wedding day
- Finalizing the seating arrangements
- Reconfirming all your honeymoon reservations, ensuring you have any necessary plane tickets
- Starting to pack for your honeymoon
- Choosing responsible individuals to bring gifts from the reception to your home
- Delegating responsibilities to reliable individuals for your wedding day
- Making sure you have your marriage license
- Handing out wedding day schedule to wedding party
- Wrapping and presenting the wedding party gifts
- Having wedding rehearsal
- Having rehearsal dinner...don't make the rookie drinking too much mistake, weddings are NOT fun with a hangover.

## One Day Before You Should Be:

- Getting a manicure or massage to relax yourself
- Staying with your family the night before and going to sleep early...well, trying to sleep
- Reviewing and rehearsing all the details with your participants

## The *Big Day* You Should Be:

- Resting and relaxing with a good bath...and a Mimosa or two.
- Preparing for your hairdresser and make-up appointments
- Eating properly, trust us on this one...the MOH helping to carry the bride down the aisle is not pretty..true story...eat something.
- Making sure hair is ready three hours before ceremony...you'll want to re-touch
- Making sure nails are done and dry before touching anything
- Allowing plenty of time to apply make-up and again re-touch
- Gathering all accessories together
- Dressing about 1.5 hrs before ceremony or before pictures, if taking pictures prior to ceremony
- Making sure the luggage is in the car or the hotel where you will stay your first night
- Making sure the groom has the wedding rings and the officiant's fee
- Giving the officiant's fee to best man
- Making sure the best man and maid of honor have the wedding rings
- Bringing the marriage license to the ceremony
- Making sure the best man and maid of honor sign the wedding certificate
- Enjoying your wonderful wedding and cherishing each and every moment...Please try to remember to look around and enjoy it. It goes by so fast!

## After the Wedding You Should Be:

- Mailing announcements
- Sending a wedding picture and announcement to newspaper
- Attending a wedding breakfast or brunch
- Having bridal gown cleaned and preserved
- Changing your name on ID and important documents
- Completing change of address cards or if you've already been 'living in sin'...unpacking and setting up all of your cool gifts.
- Writing more thank-you notes immediately