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A Bridal Time Table

Weddings can take six months or more to plan, depending upon where you live. Experts recommend that couples start planning early to avoid last-minute problems that may mar the wedding day. Use this list as a guide to help you prepare for your special day.

SIX MONTHS BEFORE

- Discuss your budget and decide what type of wedding you would like.
- Ask the special people who will be your attendants to be in the wedding.
- Choose your wedding date and time.
- Register at stores for china and silver patterns.
- Determine the number of guests—make guest list.
- Plan your honeymoon. Perhaps see a travel agent for information. Make reservations.
- Pick places for the ceremony and reception—make reservations.
- Order your wedding dress and accessories.
- Be sure to discuss rehearsal dinner with your fiancé and his family.
- Choose your wedding colors and plan the reception.
- Decide on your new home, begin household shopping.
- Speak to the clergyman (or other person who will officiate) about your ceremony details. Be sure to check on fees. Many churches require a period of premarital counseling.
- Order invitations and announcements. Address as soon as possible after receipt.
- Make arrangements for a florist and a caterer for your wedding and reception.
- Select a photographer and **Dance Tracks**.

THREE MONTHS BEFORE

- Check on a videotape service to tape your ceremony.
- Meet with your florist and caterer to finalize plans.
- Make appointment with doctor and have a physical examination.
- Reserve limousine service.
- Shop for trousseau.
- Send your engagement announcement to the newspaper.
- Order attendants' dresses, suits or tuxes. Order tuxes as your shop recommends.

ONE MONTH BEFORE

- Buy groom's wedding gift.
- Write gift acknowledgements immediately upon receipt.
- Mail invitations.
- Buy gifts for your attendants and others.
- Reserve hotel accommodations for out-of-town guests.
- Shop for wedding rings.
- Plan bridesmaids' luncheon.
- Have final bridal gown fitting.
- Get form from newspaper and check on wedding announcement requirements.
- Have formal portrait taken.

TWO WEEKS BEFORE

- Get blood tests.
- Arrange for transportation of bridal party to church.
- Apply for marriage license, with fiancé.
- Make appointment with hairdresser.
- Organize luggage and double-check honeymoon reservations.

ONE WEEK BEFORE

- Confirm number of guests you expect for the caterer.
- Have wedding day announcements ready to mail.
- Move personal belongings to your new home.
- Give bridesmaids' luncheon.
- Make sure thank-yours have been sent for gifts already received.
- Pack for your honeymoon.
- Make everyone concerned aware of rehearsal plans—time, place and dinner plans.
- Double-check all the details to be sure nothing is forgotten in error.

This checklist is not designed for all weddings. Take into consideration any special circumstances you may be involved in and plan accordingly. Remember to start planning early. Your wedding day can be calm and enjoyable if details are handled well in advance. Leave nothing to chance, and have a very special day.

