

12 to 8 months prior to the big day!

- Begin thinking about dates and times for your wedding. Make sure to consider the season and style of wedding you want.
- Create a guest list and get help from family members. Bear in mind, you don't have to choose everyone on their list, but it will help you to not forget anyone.
- Visit several wedding sites that interest you, and pick one that fits your wedding style and the size of your guest list. Keep in mind that availability may also play a role in deciding your date and location, so keep several options open.
- Pick your reception location. If it is separate from your ceremony site, make sure it is close and easily accessible for all your guests.
- Decide on a budget for each category. The last thing you want is to be in debt after the honeymoon.
- Start thinking about where you want to have your honeymoon. Keep in mind that many locations fill up fast in the peak season.
- Announce your engagement in the newspaper. This isn't necessary, but always fun and can be a cute keepsake!
- Start looking for THE DRESS. This is one of the most important dresses you will ever wear, so don't hesitate to begin the search. Remember that comfort and ease of movement are important, especially if you plan to dance the night away at your reception.
- Pick your bridesmaids and start thinking about their dresses. Make sure to consider their different shapes, sizes and ages. You want them to feel comfortable too.
- Have your fiancé decide on his groomsmen and help him look for formal wear/tuxedos for all the guys.
- If your site doesn't provide tables, chairs, tents or other necessary equipment, be sure to reserve those items from a rental vendor.
- Decide whether you want a band, a DJ or a stringed quartette. Keep in mind that they book fast, so plan ahead.
- Compare and select a photographer and/or videographer.
- Look up local florists and set appointments. Remember that the time of year matters and may affect the cost of your floral arrangements.
- Make sure you have the contact information of all the vendors you select. Keep them handy.
- Pick the stores that you wish to register at, and then find a day for you and your fiancée to go together and register.

- Attend bridal shows. They are a great way to find out about local vendors.
- Marital Counseling. This helps even the most compatible couples!

8 to 4 months prior to the big day!

- Buy the wedding gown, veil, tiara and any other accessories.
- Buy the groom's tuxedo.
- Buy the bridesmaid's dresses.
- Have the groomsmen measured for their tuxedos and reserve them.
- Select your baker and discuss your wedding cake design. Let the baker know if the cake will be outside for any length of time.
- Begin thinking about how you will want your hair styled for the wedding. Be sure to consider a style that can be worn comfortably all day.
- Choose and reserve your florist.
- Start thinking about wedding favors. There are many great ways to make these personal and fun.
- Organize transportation to and from ceremony and reception for the wedding party and guests. Consider limousines, horse and carriage, vans, buses, etc.
- Select and order invitations and stationery that reflect your unique and distinctive style. **Designs by K** can help you with a wide variety of elegant handcrafted designs.
- Shop for wedding rings; you will be wearing these for the rest of your life, so love it!
- Check with local, county, and state agencies for blood tests and marriage license requirements, and make arrangements to complete them!
- Finalize guest list!
- Start looking for a place to live after the wedding if needed.
- Begin shopping for after-wedding apparel. (ie. lingerie, honeymoon wear, etc.)
- Complete honeymoon arrangements, double checking details and reservations.

4 to 2 months prior to the big day!

- Verify with the caterers on the final menu and any other catering details. Also confirm arrangements for the wedding cake with your baker.
- Create maps with directions to the ceremony and reception if needed.
- Purchase a wedding guest book.
- Team up with your maid-of-honor and other bridesmaids to start planning any pre-wedding parties. (ie. bridesmaid's luncheon, bridal shower, bachelorette party, etc.)
- Coordinate with the officiate on setting dates and time for the rehearsal. Then begin planning the date and time for the rehearsal dinner.
- Finalize all details regarding the florist and flower deliveries, photographer, videographer, musicians, transportation, etc.
- Make sure that there are accommodations for all out of town guest who need lodging and transportation.
- Have someone help you plan the program/order of service for your wedding. Be sure to make it personal and pertain to you and your soon-to-be hubby. This is a great place for you to thank the people you might not see during the hectic wedding.
- Mail out "save the date" announcements. Check out **Designs by K's** offerings.

8 to 4 weeks prior to the big day!

- Send out your wedding invitations.
- Finalize all wedding favors for the reception and how they will be distributed.
- Set up appointments with hairdressers and/or a make-up artist for you and your wedding party.
- Make an appointment with the photographer for your formal bridal portraits.
- Purchase a gift for your future husband. You can give this to him before the wedding. Also buy gifts for you wedding party.
- Make a date to get a final fitting of your gown; this leaves time for any alterations that need to be done. If you are dieting this is a must.
- Get your rings sized if necessary.

- Plan out the seating arrangement for your guests at the reception and write out the place cards if you aren't having them printed.
- Have the bridesmaids go in for their final dress fittings.
- Buy or borrow all detail accessories for the wedding (ie. ring pillow, champagne glasses, garter belt, candles, etc.)
- Select specific music for the ceremony and reception. (i.e. the first dance, parents' dance, cake cutting etc.) Make sure the DJ, band or musicians have all this information.

2 weeks prior to the big day!

- Double check all guest accommodations.
- Acquire your wedding license.
- Be sure that all attire for the wedding party and any other accessories are finished, picked up and in a safe place!
- Deal with any legal business or documents such as name change and/or address changes.
- Arrange for transportation of your wedding gifts from the wedding.

1 Week prior to the big day!

- Finalize seating arrangements for the wedding ceremony, and make sure to go over the seating chart or preferences with the ushers.
- Double check all honeymoon arrangements, including plane or cruise tickets. Start packing!
- Recheck that all dresses, gowns and tuxedos fit.
- Review any last minute details with all your vendors.
- Call any guests you haven't received a response card from.
- Confirm with the caterer the final guest count.
- Wrap wedding party gifts and present them.

- Assign wedding day tasks and responsibilities to dependable and reliable people. It's your day and you have enough to worry about.
- Complete the rehearsal dinner arrangements and any details for any other pre-wedding events.
- Make an "Emergency Pack" for the wedding day. Make sure to include things that you might need on the spot such as back-up makeup kit, safety pins, clips, hair pins, a snack, water, etc.

1 day prior to the big day!

- Relax---go to a spa with your bridesmaids and get manicures and massages.
- Consider staying with family or friends the night before. Get to bed early; you have a long day ahead of you.

The big day!

- Get up early and allow some personal time for yourself. Enjoy some coffee, take a long bath, relax. You've got a big day full of lots of people. Breathe deeply.
- Eat a good meal and make sure to hydrate throughout the day.
- Go to appointments with your hairdresser and/or makeup artist.
- Be sure to have your maid-of-honor and best man sign your wedding certificate.
- Have fun, this is your big day. Enjoy!

