

# Countdown to the big day

Got the date set? Do some things in advance and you won't be overwhelmed. This checklist will tell you what to do, and when to do it.

## *Nine to six months before the wedding:*

- Announce your engagement
- Book florist, caterer, DJ/band, photographer
- Inform traveling guests of wedding date
- Order gowns for both the bride and bridesmaids
- Get a commitment from your officiant
- Book your honeymoon

## *Five to four months*

- Decide on wedding invitations
- Start searching for your cake
- Confirm that all of the bridesmaids have ordered their gowns
- Start looking for tuxedos for the groom and groomsmen.
- Purchase your wedding rings
- Let people you'd like to participate in your wedding (ushers, readers during the ceremony, etc.) know of your intentions

## *Three to two months*

- Finalize your guest list and mail out your invitations.
- Finalize your menu choices
- Find accessories such as the ring pillow, candles, etc.
- Choose and buy gifts for those in the wedding party as well as the parents of the bride and groom
- Confirm that all groomsmen have ordered their tuxedos
- Finalize all transportation

## *One month*

- Schedule the first bridal-gown fitting
- Finalize the readings you'd prefer during the ceremony and mail them out to anyone who has agreed to do a reading
- Make plans for a post-rehearsal dinner or party

## *Four weeks*

- Confirm your honeymoon arrangements
- See if your wedding rings are ready
- Check the guest list to see who has and hasn't RSVP'd

## *Three weeks*

- Get your marriage license
- Prepare and order your wedding program around this time

## *Two weeks*

- Get a final attendance count and submit it to the caterer
- Finalize the seating chart
- Pick up the wedding gown and tuxedo
- Make sure the wedding party picks up their attire

## *One week*

- Finalize your vows
- Confirm wedding-day details such as transportation, photo schedules, and addresses
- Pack for your honeymoon

## *One day*

- Rehearse for the ceremony
- Make final confirmations
- Get some sleep!