

Wedding Planning Timetable

(as featured in the Columbia Bridal Associates Bridal Guide)

Bride's List

12 Months Before:

- ◇ Talk with fiancé, all parents, about budget, style – from colors to cake.
- ◇ Select attendants.
- ◇ Decide on wedding and reception sites and make reservations.
- ◇ Hire consultant, caterer, photographer, videographer, florist, musicians, etc.

9 Months Before:

- ◇ Shop for dress, accessories.
- ◇ Register for china, linens, etc; take fiancé with you.

6 Months Before:

- ◇ With fiancé, meet with officiant to discuss ceremony.
- ◇ Begin guest list; have fiancé do his.
- ◇ Choose flowers with florist.
- ◇ Book calligrapher.
- ◇ Order invitations and announcements and begin addressing them as soon as they arrive.
- ◇ Talk about honeymoon plans with fiancé.
- ◇ Shop for attendants' dresses.
- ◇ Discuss rehearsal dinner with fiancé.
- ◇ Have engagement photograph taken.

4 Months Before:

- ◇ Finish guest list; get fiancé's list.
- ◇ Shop for trousseau.
- ◇ Be sure wedding rings are ordered.
- ◇ Give request list to photographer, videographer, & musicians.
- ◇ Have portrait taken.
- ◇ Confirm delivery date on your dress.
- ◇ Make appointment with gynecologist.
- ◇ Make appointment with hairdresser.
- ◇ Plan lodging for out-of-town guests.

4-6 Weeks Before:

- ◇ Mail your invitations.
- ◇ Buy fiancé's wedding gift.
- ◇ Buy gifts for your attendants.
- ◇ Pick up dress and headpiece.
- ◇ Plan your bridesmaids' party.

- ◇ Write thank-you notes for gifts.
- ◇ Send wedding announcement to your newspapers.
- ◇ Confirm music selections for ceremony and formal dances at reception.

1 Week Before:

- ◇ Pack; get going-away outfit ready.
- ◇ Purchase traveler's checks.
- ◇ Give final guest count to caterer.
- ◇ Give and/or attend bridesmaids' party.
- ◇ Check final details with florist, photographer, DJ, etc.
- ◇ Arrange to move belongings to new home.
- ◇ Keep up with thank you notes.
- ◇ Remind attendants of rehearsal dinner details; give them gifts that night.

Groom's List

6 Months Before:

- ◇ Pick up fiancée's engagement ring from jewelry store (if not selected).
- ◇ Start making out your guest list.
- ◇ With fiancée, meet with officiant to discuss ceremony.
- ◇ Discuss how many ushers you'll need (one for every 50 guests).
- ◇ If you are traveling abroad, be sure to update your passport; arrange for visas, international driver's license, check on inoculations if needed.

2-3 Months Before:

- ◇ Complete guest list; give it to fiancée.
- ◇ Consult fiancée; order wedding attire for self, best man, ushers and fathers.
- ◇ Order wedding rings.
- ◇ Arrange to pay for bride's bouquet; order men's boutonnieres, mothers' corsages.
- ◇ See your doctor for check-up.
- ◇ Plan rehearsal dinner with your parents.
- ◇ Consult with fiancée and arrange lodging for relatives and ushers from out of town.

2-4 Weeks Before:

- ◇ Select gifts for bride, ushers.
- ◇ Make sure necessary documents — legal, medical and religious — are in order.
- ◇ Give or attend bachelor party.
- ◇ Pick up wedding rings; check engraving.
- ◇ Help fiancée with thank you notes.
- ◇ Go with your fiancée to get the marriage license.
- ◇ Arrange for best man to drive you from the reception to the airport, hotel or train station.
- ◇ Double-check honeymoon reservations.

1 Week Before:

- ◇ Explain special seating arrangements for family, disabled guests, to head usher.
- ◇ Put the clergy member's or judge's fee into an envelope, seal, and give it to the best man to deliver after the ceremony.
- ◇ Purchase traveler's checks.
- ◇ Get your going-away clothes ready so you can change after the reception.
- ◇ Pack for your honeymoon.
- ◇ Arrange to move belongings to new home.

- ◇ Remind best man, ushers, of the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner details; present gifts to attendants at rehearsal dinner.