

# Wedding COUNTDOWN



Wedding date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wedding location: \_\_\_\_\_  
 RSVP date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bride: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Groom: \_\_\_\_\_

## WHEN YOU GET ENGAGED

- Hooray! Announce your engagement and share the great news!
- If you will be having engagement photos taken, book your session.
- Choose your bridal party, attendants, and other special participants.
- Set your wedding budget.
- Choose a wedding date and timeline.
- Start off organized. Create an e-mail folder and wedding Pinterest board.
- Start planning your guest list, collecting names and addresses as you go.
- Start researching ceremony and reception sites.

## 12 MONTHS BEFORE

- Finalize your wedding date.
- Book your venue(s), and any other critical high-demand vendors.
- Interview and book a wedding planner if you'll have one.
- Interview and book your wedding photographer and videographer.
- Begin planning your overall wedding style and colors.  
*This will inform all of your decorations choices.*

## 9-11 MONTHS BEFORE

- Choose and book an officiant.
- If available, consider pre-marital counseling with your officiant or counselor.  
*Many couples read a pre-marriage book together to start their marriage off on a solid footing!*
- Set an engagement party date (if you'll be having one) and start the party plans.
- Decide on a caterer, finalize your menu and decide on the cost per head.
- Research and select your DJ or band, and any other ceremony musicians.
- Set up appointments with local florists in the area to learn about your options.
- Begin dress shopping! Once your dress has been chosen, shop for your bridesmaids.
- Set up your gift registries.

## 6-8 MONTHS BEFORE

- Order your wedding gown and take care of any necessary alterations.
- Tell your bridesmaids the plan for their dresses so they can schedule fittings.
- Book your florist and finalize your plan for the flowers.
- Interview a baker and book your cake.
- Send out a Save the Date
- Start thinking about hairstyles and makeup for the big day.
- Set aside a block of room for out-of-town guests in a nearby hotel.
- Order your Save the Dates and send them out (generally at the 4-6 month mark)  
*TIP: If yours will be a destination wedding, send out your Save The Date as soon as possible.*
- Finalize and order your invitations.
- Start thinking about wedding centerpieces and form a plan (DIY, florist, or other?)
- Begin planning your ceremony with your officiant, and write your wedding vows.
- Start plans for the rehearsal dinner.
- If you haven't done so already, book your ceremony DJ or band.

## 4-5 MONTHS BEFORE

- Make arrangements for any items that need to be rented (linens, tables, chairs, etc.)
- Arrangements for any sound equipment or lights that need to be rented.
- Choose the groom's attire, and take care of any necessary alterations.
- Yay! Plan and book your honeymoon, including flights and hotel reservations.  
*Be sure to check that your passports are current.*
- Book your accommodations for your wedding night. Ooh, la la!
- Reserve a calligrapher if you'll be using one for your invitations.
- Book your rehearsal dinner site and finalize the menu.
- Order any special bridal accessories (jewelry, veil, garter, shoes...)

# Wedding COUNTDOWN



(continued)

## 2-3 MONTHS BEFORE

- Send out your wedding invitations (3-month mark)
- Schedule your pre-wedding hair, make-up and nail appointments.
- Decide on ceremony decorations.
- Shop for and purchase your wedding rings.
- Research and decide on wedding favors.
- Plan your bridesmaid luncheon if this is something you will be having.
- Attend your bridal showers, and keep registry well-stocked with items.
- Finalize ceremony plans including readings and special music.

## 2 MONTHS BEFORE

- Have your first dress fitting.
- Begin working on ceremony programs.
- Research and be informed of local marriage requirements.
- Schedule your make-up and hair trial appointments (3-4 weeks prior to wedding)

## 1 MONTH BEFORE

- Have your bachelorette party.
- Schedule your hair and makeup trial appointments (3-4 weeks before)
- Send out rehearsal dinner invitations
- Work on an hourly schedule of your wedding day.
- Consider any small hospitality gestures (a welcome basket) for out-of-town guests.
- Purchase gifts for close family members and wedding attendants.
- Finalize your ceremony programs.

## 2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Begin the seating chart, calling guests who have not yet returned their RSVP card.
- Provide all vendors with your final head count.
- Inscribe place cards or a seating chart to be displayed at the reception.
- Coordinate payment amounts, details and terms for all vendors.  
*Keep a folder with all vendor details and signed contracts in one place.*
- Pack for your honeymoon, and shop for any last-minute items.
- Finalize transportation for the day.
- Break in your wedding shoes.
- Have your final dress fitting, and have your dress steamed / pressed.
- Place tips and any final payments for vendors in envelopes for a close friend or family member to distribute on the wedding day.
- Pack your overnight bag for the wedding night!
- Provide your photographer with a "must-take" list of shots you absolutely need.
- Provide your DJ or band with a list of special song requests.
- Apply for your marriage license.

## 3-4 DAYS BEFORE

- Write thank-you notes and wrap special gifts.
- Connect with florist to confirm final flower order, delivery details, etc.
- Connect with your ceremony and reception sites to finalize timing and details.
- Connect with your limousine driver on the pick-up times and locations.
- Deliver welcome baskets to out-of-town guests.
- Confirm all speeches and toasts with your family and wedding party.
- Finalize a plan for transporting wedding gifts from the reception.
- Prepare your day-of emergency kit, filled with any essentials you may need.

# Wedding COUNTDOWN



(continued)

## 2 DAYS BEFORE

- Schedule your wedding manicure and pedicure. Relax, and enjoy!
- Schedule any waxing appointments.
- Form a game plan for your wedding rehearsal, and provide key wedding participants with a finalized hour-by-hour agenda of the big day so you're on the same page.
- Bring items such as the runner, unity candle, guest book, and any other items to the reception site in advance.

## 1 DAY BEFORE

- Rehearse the ceremony at the ceremony site.
- Provide your officiant with the marriage license.
- Enjoy your rehearsal dinner!
- Give thank-you gifts to your bridal party.
- Sleep well!

## WEDDING DAY!

- Wake up early and try to keep on schedule with hair and make-up appointments!
- Provide your wedding bands to the best man or maid of honor.
- Provide all vendor envelopes with payment / tips to a family member to give out.
- Thank mom and dad for all they've done to get you here today either in a written card or in person. The day will fly by, so don't forget to do this.
- Relax, and enjoy your wedding day!

## AFTER THE WEDDING

- Return any rentals (tuxedo, chairs, linens, sound or lighting equipment...)
- Write a log of your gifts for easier thank-you note writing!
- Package and freeze the top of your cake if you'll be doing this.
- While your wedding day is fresh in your mind, jot down any special memories that you'll want to remember; moments that were not captured on camera, conversations that were had, or things that made the day extra special.  
*Our "Wedding Day Memories" sheet offers some fun fill-ins for you to jot down your memories!*
- Preserve your bouquet if you'll be doing this.
- Send your dress off for cleaning and preservation.
- Send any thank-you notes to vendors or other wedding participants.
- Enjoy your honeymoon, and enjoy each other!  
*Your wedding is a single day, but a marriage is meant to last forever. Congratulations!*