

# Wedding PLANNING

YOU'VE FOUND THE  
LOVE OF YOUR LIFE AND  
THE TWO OF YOU ARE  
GETTING MARRIED!

## NOW WHAT?

Your wedding is one of the most complex events you, your spouse-to-be and your families may ever orchestrate. A solid plan moves the process forward so the anticipation is pleasant. This timeline and checklist help organize details from a chaotic start into the happiest celebration of your lives.

## 9-12 MONTHS

- Select a date and time for the wedding
- Arrange for parents to get together, perhaps at an engagement party or informally over dinner
- Begin to compile guest list
- Discuss budget with everyone who may contribute financially; establish priorities, including honeymoon
- Interview potential wedding planners
- Select officiant and visit with him or her to discuss wedding preparation and procedures
- Select catering service if not provided by reception site
- Visit [www.stlouisbestbridal.com](http://www.stlouisbestbridal.com) to announce – for **free** – your engagement online and in the local St. Louis Post-Dispatch
- Choose members of the wedding party
- Research legal rules for marriage license in location where you will wed and immediately add dates to implement them to calendar
- Narrow down ceremony and reception sites and book them (a popular location may book 18 months in advance or open



reservations only 12 months  
before date)

- Close in on style, theme and colors

## 6-9 MONTHS

- Book photographer and videographer
- Book ceremony musicians and reception band or DJ
- Reserve party rental equipment (tables, chairs, tents, lighting)
- Shop for and order bridal gown and accessories
- Select florist



- Select bridesmaids' dresses
- Close in on final guest list, addresses
- Arrange wedding cake tastings, then order a favorite
- Research honeymoon spots and select travel agent
- Mail save-the-date cards, especially for destination or holiday wedding
- Make master to-do list; keep copies only with those who need to know
- Consider items for registry

## 4-6 MONTHS

- Order wedding invitations, thank-you notes and personal stationery (earlier is better)



- Attend pre-wedding counseling as required or desired
- Reserve location of rehearsal dinner
- Arrange lodging for out-of-towners

- Select and order formalwear for men; schedule fittings
- Complete registry
- Reserve wedding-day transportation as needed: to the church, from church to reception, from reception to after-party or where you will spend your wedding night
- Meet with travel agent to plan honeymoon and make reservations
- Secure travel documentation; renew/get passports

## 2-4 MONTHS

- Finish addressing invitations
- Meet with caterer to discuss plans for food at the reception



- Complete honeymoon plans
- If not already noted on calendars, fill in time for securing marriage license (See 'Sign on the Dotted Line')
- Set time for any bridal photography beyond the wedding day
- Select and order wedding rings
- Set appointments with hairstylist/makeup consultant for rehearsal and wedding day
- Select gifts for attendants
- Choose favors and guest book
- Complete cake order, if necessary
- Book room for wedding night

## 4-8 WEEKS

- Plan menus for rehearsal dinner
- Pick up wedding rings; arrange for engraving or check for accuracy
- Have final fitting of wedding gown, make alteration appointment
- Have run-through of bridal hair (with headpiece, if applicable) and makeup; experiment now, not later

- Check that bridesmaids have arranged fittings for their gowns, groomsmen for tuxedos and shoes
- Draw up seating plan for ceremony and reception
- Submit song lists to ceremony musician and reception band or DJ
- Finalize plans with every wedding vendor, including photographer



- Select gifts for parents, attendants and each other
- Mail invitations six weeks before wedding, earlier if destination wedding or if many travel; design, test-drive map for out-of-towners
- Decide on insurance policies and name-change documents
- Write and order programs for ceremony
- Attend bridal shower(s)

## 2-4 WEEKS

- Final gown alteration appointment; bring along maid of honor to learn to bustle it



- Prepare information to announce wedding after the big day at [www.stlouisbestbridal.com](http://www.stlouisbestbridal.com)
- Write vows, if desired; write toasts
- Review guest list and provide caterer with final counts
- Finalize seating arrangements
- Finish place cards for reception



- ❑ Provide rehearsal and wedding-day schedules to wedding party
- ❑ Arrange gift transport from reception
- ❑ Bride has last pre-wedding haircut and coloring
- ❑ Be certain names on photo IDs and/or passports match honeymoon plane tickets/reservations
- ❑ Start packing for honeymoon, listing contents as you add items to suitcase
- ❑ Gather items for emergency kit
- ❑ Everyone: Break in shoes

## 1 WEEK

- ❑ Send out all final payments possible, place fees still due in envelopes
- ❑ Delegate responsibilities for the wedding day to reliable helpers
- ❑ Finalize rehearsal and rehearsal dinner; confirm attending numbers
- ❑ Double-check details with vendors
- ❑ Confirm honeymoon details and finish packing
- ❑ Groom: Have hair trimmed
- ❑ Attend any remaining bachelor/bachelorette party (hold earlier, if possible)
- ❑ Pass along any challenges that pop up at the last minute to those who can resolve them

## 1-2 DAYS

- ❑ Get massage, manicure, pedicure; purchase and pack extra nail polish in shade you are using for touch-up



- ❑ Pick up remaining rental attire
- ❑ Attend rehearsal and review all details with participants
- ❑ Enjoy rehearsal dinner, greet family and friends; present wedding party and parents with thank-you gifts
- ❑ Get a good night's sleep



## YOUR BIG DAY

- ❑ Eat a healthy breakfast and drink lots of water to avoid dehydration from excitement.
- ❑ Try to take at least a little walk, play music or meditate to reduce stress.
- ❑ Double-check that you have all items you need, with backups just in case.
- ❑ Give groom's wedding band to maid of honor and bride's ring to best man.
- ❑ Write down and pass along any last-minute contingency plans that occur to you.
- ❑ Have hair and makeup done according to early plan.
- ❑ Make certain the best man and maid of honor sign the marriage license.
- ❑ Follow schedule written last month.
- ❑ Make extra time to get dressed.
- ❑ Set aside extra time for the unexpected.
- ❑ Allow 50 percent more time for travel.
- ❑ Take advantage of snacks and bottled water in the dressing area.
- ❑ Greet guests by name, be gracious and grateful.
- ❑ Smile and remain calm. Do not let anything slightly amiss interfere with your joy.
- ❑ Cherish each moment of this special day with your new life partner and those gathered to celebrate with you.
- ❑ If you leave early, say goodbye to parents and grandparents.