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Wedding 101

Everything you need to
know to be prepared

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WEDDING TIME!

Take this step-by-step journey leading up to your big day

This timeline provides you with a checklist that will help you plan a wedding to remember. This is meant as a general guideline, and there will surely be additional steps unique to your wedding.

12 to 16 months before the wedding

- ___ Choose a wedding date. The best way to do this is to visit ceremony and reception facilities.
- ___ Start a wedding file.
- ___ Discuss and choose the style and formality of your wedding.
- ___ Put an announcement of your recent engagement in the local paper.
- ___ Decide on a wedding budget.
- ___ Hire a wedding consultant.
- ___ Select a ceremony location and reception site.
- ___ Start shopping for a wedding gown, veil and tiara.

8 to 10 months before the wedding

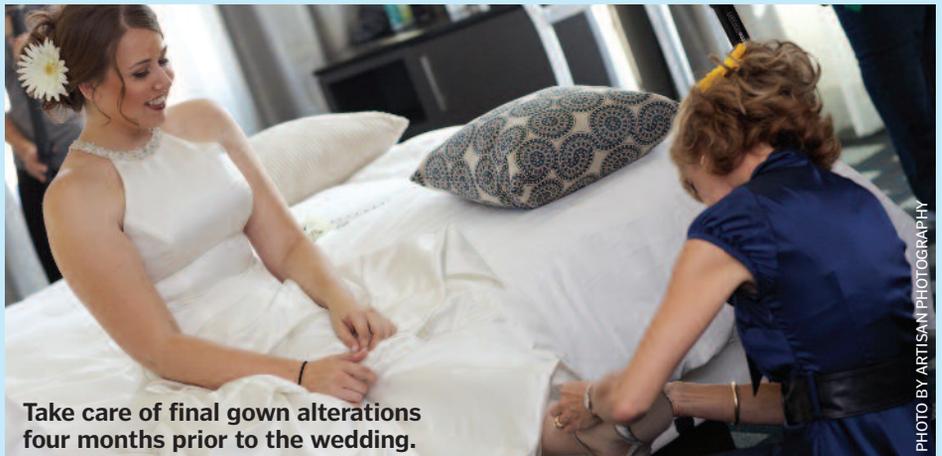
- ___ Place your order for save the dates and "thank you" cards.
- ___ Select your bridal party.
- ___ Interview and hire the following:
 - Wedding officiate
 - Reception caterer
 - Photographer and cinema photographer
 - Band or DJ: Interview several.
- ___ Decide on bridesmaids dresses.
- ___ Start compiling names and addresses for the guest list.
- ___ Sign up for a gift registry.
- ___ Prepare for engagement party.
- ___ Mail your save the date cards.

5 to 7 months before the wedding

- ___ Finalize the guest list.
- ___ Arrange accommodations.
- ___ Select your wedding cake.
- ___ Begin preparations for your honeymoon.

4 months before the wedding

- ___ Book your florist.
- ___ Shop for your wedding bands.
- ___ Book a room for the wedding night.
- ___ Write "thank you notes" as gifts arrive.
- ___ Select tuxedos.
- ___ Discuss finalized menu options and costs with your caterer.



Take care of final gown alterations four months prior to the wedding.

PHOTO BY ARTISAN PHOTOGRAPHY

- ___ Arrange transportation/limousine service for the wedding party to the ceremony and reception.
- ___ Order wedding favors and ribbons (imprinted).
- ___ Shop for bridal party gifts.
- ___ Send out your invitations.
- ___ Choose your wedding music for your ceremony and reception.
- ___ Select a location for your rehearsal dinner and make deposits.
- ___ Schedule your alterations and final fitting for the gown.
- ___ Schedule fittings for the bridesmaids and flower girl.
- ___ Arrange your bridesmaid luncheon and other pre-wedding parties.
- ___ Order address labels with your new name and address.
- ___ Check local newspaper for wedding announcement deadline.
- ___ Confirm your order with the florist.
- ___ Discuss service with your officiate.
- ___ Choose readings for ceremony.

1 month before the wedding

- ___ Design your wedding programs.
- ___ Apply for your marriage license.
- ___ Choose all of your wedding accessories.
- ___ Have a final gown fitting with your shoes, jewelry and lingerie.
- ___ Visit your hair stylist, work on a style with your veil.
- ___ Visit your make-up artist the same day.
- ___ Send out rehearsal dinner invitations.

2 weeks before the wedding

- ___ Call any guests who haven't sent back their response cards
- ___ Give the caterer a finalized head count.
- ___ Obtain your marriage license and request certificated copies.
- ___ Send change of address information to post office.
- ___ Give your DJ or band a list of songs that you want played.
- ___ Confirm rehearsal plans with your coordi-

- nator.
- ___ Obtain any legal information regarding changing your name.
- ___ Complete floor and seating plan for reception.
- ___ Confirm all rental and floral delivery dates and times.
- ___ Write toasts for rehearsal dinner and wedding reception.

1 week before the wedding

- ___ Make any last minute seating arrangements and adjustments.
- ___ Update caterer with final guest count.
- ___ Organize your wedding day attire.
- ___ Confirm honeymoon reservations.
- ___ Confirm reservations for out-of-town guests.
- ___ Pack for your honeymoon.

1 day before the wedding

- ___ Go through your list of things to do.
- ___ Confirm transportation arrangements.
- ___ Get a manicure and pedicure.
- ___ Hold rehearsal dinner, give gifts to parents and wedding party.
- ___ Put wedding attire and accessories together.
- ___ Give rings to best man.
- ___ Try to get a good night's sleep!

Your wedding day!

- ___ Eat something!
- ___ Dress for your wedding.
- ___ Have candid photos taken with family.
- ___ Enjoy! You've worked hard!

After the honeymoon

- ___ Have your wedding gown and flowers preserved.
- ___ Write "thank you" notes and change your name.

— *Colleen Bauer is the owner of Fairy Godmother, a wedding and event planning company*