

12+ months before

- ♥ **Get organised.** Work out where you will be storing all of your paperwork, ideas, lists and prices. Purchase a folder and notebook, or setup spreadsheets, or sign up for an online wedding planning account.
- ♥ **Know what you want.** Begin envisioning your wedding theme and style – traditional church, casual beach, vintage garden, rustic country – this choice will decide many of your details.
- ♥ **Decide on a budget.** Work out where you can save and where to splurge. Discuss with your fiancé and family who will contribute.
- ♥ **Pick a wedding date and time.** Finalise the date once you have checked with important guests, and your first choice of ceremony and reception sites, celebrant and photographer. If you have many guests travelling, consider a long weekend, but check surcharges.
- ♥ **Start researching.** Get supplier recommendations. Look at photos to narrow down your choice of dream dress. Visit wedding expos for lots of ideas.
- ♥ **Apply for (or renew) a passport** if you intend to travel overseas for your honeymoon.
- ♥ **Organise birth certificate** and any other documents needed for Notice of intention to Marry Form.
- ♥ **Start a sensible get into shape plan.** Don't procrastinate and try to loose weight quickly at the last minute.



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11 months before

- ♥ **Consider hiring a wedding coordinator** if you are feeling stressed at this point and are not the most organised person.
- ♥ **Create a preliminary guest list** to determine an approximate size for your wedding. Consult with your families.
- ♥ **Book critical vendors and pay deposits** if you haven't already
  - ♥ The ceremony site
  - ♥ The reception venue
  - ♥ The celebrant
  - ♥ The photographer and videographer
- ♥ **Register for gifts** at a bridal registry.



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9-10 months before

- ♥ **Choose your wedding party** remembering the more people you have, the more difficult it will be to coordinate schedules.

- ♥ **Finalise the guest list** and get everyone's mailing address.
- ♥ **Book and pay deposits for:**
  - ♥ The florist
  - ♥ The decorator
  - ♥ The DJ/band
  - ♥ The caterer (if needed) and work on creating the menu



## 8 months before

- ♥ **Order your dress** and schedule dress fitting appointments as required.
- ♥ **Order bridesmaid dresses.**
- ♥ Decide on the **flower girl dress** and **page boy outfit.**
- ♥ **Book and pay a deposit** for the cake decorator. Sample your cake, choose your cake design and keep an eye out for a cake topper.



## 6-7 months before

- ♥ **Schedule an engagement shoot** if desired.
- ♥ **Send save the date cards** if you have people travelling from interstate or overseas.
- ♥ **Book and pay a deposit** for ceremony musicians.
- ♥ Organise for someone to be your **Master of Ceremonies** (emcee).
- ♥ **Organise invitations.** Work out a design and wording and place an order. Remember each couple only needs one invitation.
- ♥ **Buy lingerie and shoes** for you and shop for the bridesmaids' shoes.



## 4-5 months before

- ♥ **Organise the Groom.** Help him decide what he and his groomsmen will wear.
- ♥ **Buy your wedding rings** and get them engraved if needed.
- ♥ **Decide where you will stay on your wedding night.** Book a hotel room if required.
- ♥ **Finalise your honeymoon** and travel arrangements.
- ♥ **Book your wedding dance lessons.**
- ♥ **Launch your wedding website** if you are having one.
- ♥ **Attend pre-marriage counselling** suggested by your church official or celebrant



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## 2-3 months before

- ♥ **Establish a beauty routine.** If you are changing makeup, self tanners, or facials, don't leave this to the last minute.
- ♥ **Send your invitations.**
- ♥ **Organise bomboniere.** If you are having custom made favours, allow extra time.
- ♥ **Arrange transport to the ceremony** for you, your wedding party and special guests.
- ♥ **Hen's Party and Buck's Night.** Talk to your maid of honour and the best man about arrangements.
- ♥ **Bridal Shower.** Talk to your maid of honour about arrangements.
- ♥ **Visit your dentist** for a check up and clean.
- ♥ **Visit your doctor** if you plan to travel overseas for your honeymoon. Have any injections you need and make sure you have a doctor's letter for any prescription medicines you are taking.



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## 5-6 weeks before

- ♥ **Start working on vows,** especially if you are writing your own.
- ♥ **Start working on timetables** for the wedding day. Start working on the ceremony program.
- ♥ **Start thinking about your seating chart.** This will probably take longer than you expect.
- ♥ **Buy gifts** for the wedding party.
- ♥ **Lodge your Notice of Intended Marriage** with your celebrant if you haven't already done so.



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## 3-4 weeks before

- ♥ **Discuss songs** with your music providers for the ceremony and reception.
- ♥ **Talk to your emcee** about the wedding timetable.
- ♥ **Speeches.** Let people know if you want them to give a speech and who they'll be toasting.
- ♥ **Have a final dress fitting** wearing the lingerie and shoes you will be wearing on the wedding day.
- ♥ **Pick up your wedding rings.** Check they fit and proofread any engraving.
- ♥ **Shop for accessories** including your:
  - ♥ Veil
  - ♥ Jewellery
  - ♥ Guest Book
  - ♥ Toasting Flutes
  - ♥ Cake Servers
  - ♥ Candles
  - ♥ Your something old, new, borrowed and blue

♥ **Enjoy your bridal shower.**

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## 2 weeks before

- ♥ **Chase up guests** who haven't RSVP'd for the wedding.
- ♥ **Give a final head count to the reception venue coordinator** and/or caterer including any extras like the DJ and photographer.
- ♥ **Give your seating chart** to reception venue coordinator and/or the caterer.
- ♥ **Confirm setup** and final payments with all suppliers.
- ♥ **Organise rehearsal details** and the ceremony order with your celebrant.
- ♥ **Finish ceremony programs.** Ask someone who hasn't been working on them to give them a final proofread before printing.
- ♥ **Pick up your dress** and the bridesmaids' dresses.
- ♥ **Pack for your honeymoon.** Confirm reservations and obtain foreign currency if required.
- ♥ **Nominate people** to do last minute jobs on your wedding day and to take items from the ceremony venue to the reception venue if required.
- ♥ **Have hair and make-up trials.** Go out afterwards – remember your hairstyle and makeup have to last all day.
- ♥ **Book** your manicure, pedicure, massage and spray tan.
- ♥ **Check deliver/pick up time of suit hire.**
- ♥ **Enjoy your hens' night.**

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## 1 week before

- ♥ **Confirm:**
  - ♥ that all your suppliers will have access to the site.
  - ♥ the day's plan with the emcee.
  - ♥ delivery of flowers to you, the reception and the groom.
  - ♥ the list of pictures you want with the photographer and videographer.
  - ♥ your wedding dress still fits.
  - ♥ your transport times.
  - ♥ delivery date if using a gift registry.
- ♥ **Meet with your reception venue coordinator** or wedding planner. Finalise timetable, menu, drinks, delivery of decorations, flowers, guest numbers, seating plan and pay final money payments.
- ♥ **Practise walking** in your wedding shoes in thick socks to wear them in.
- ♥ **Pick up suits** for the groom and groomsmen.
- ♥ **Prepare your toasts** and thanks to family and friends.
- ♥ **Give instructions to ushers** for the ceremony.
- ♥ **Put together an emergency kit.** Include a list of suppliers' phone numbers.
- ♥ **Check the weather forecast.** If you are having an outdoor ceremony and it looks like rain, talk to your reception venue coordinator to make sure a contingency plan is in place.



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## 1 day before

- ♥ **Drop off** bomboniere, guest book and pen at the reception site.
- ♥ **Have your nails done.**
- ♥ **Rehearse the ceremony** and stay calm.
- ♥ **Organise your wedding attire** - dress, veil, shoes, lingerie etc., and stay calm.
- ♥ **Organise an esky** with plenty of water and nibbles to take with you to the photo shoot and stay calm.
- ♥ **Pack a bag for the wedding night** and finish packing for the honeymoon and stay calm.
- ♥ **Organise a friend or family member to:**
  - ♥ deliver your luggage to the hotel if required.
  - ♥ pick up your wedding dress from the hotel the day after the wedding and have it dry cleaned.
  - ♥ return the hired suits after the wedding day. Don't forget the bond.
- ♥ **Ensure your emergency kit is ready** and you or your fiancé have some money for any unexpected expenses on the day and stay calm.
- ♥ **Have an early night's sleep.**



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## The Wedding Day

- ♥ **Eat breakfast and lunch.**
- ♥ **Allow plenty of time to get ready.** Don't leave your hair and makeup until last if you have one hairdresser and makeup artist.
- ♥ **Relax and enjoy the day.** Don't sweat the small stuff.



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## Post honeymoon

- ♥ **Have gifts delivered.**
- ♥ **Send out thank you cards** within two months.
- ♥ **Book appointments** to see your photographer and videographer.
- ♥ **Pick up your wedding dress** from dry cleaner.
- ♥ **Change your name** if required.



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