

Congratulations you're engaged!

Wedding bells will be ringing soon, but in the meantime it's all about the planning. Here's a helpful 12-month itinerary to make sure your big day goes off without a hitch.

10 to 12 Months

This is the period of research and exploring, what kind of wedding do you want? Pretend you are a detective seeking the best of everything: style, venue, honeymoon, the works.

- Schedule engagement photos
- Mail out engagement announcements
- Set a date
- Meet clergy, especially if one of you is converting so you can start classes immediately
- Start making bride/groom guest list
- Decide on a budget
- Decide on indoor or outdoor wedding, be sure to keep in mind weather conditions for outdoor weddings and it's always a good idea to have a backup plan
- Begin scouting locations for ceremony, reception and rehearsal dinner.
- Begin researching caterers, florists, photographers, musicians and bakers
- Make a list with fiancée of honeymoon destinations and songs for your first dance
- Decide on members of the wedding party
- Begin shopping for your wedding dress

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7 to 9 Months

Now it's time to start narrowing things down. In order to have time for the details, it's important to get some of the big stuff out of the way.

- Send engagement announcement to the local paper
- Order your wedding dress
- Decide on venue
- Choose clergy
- Choose your colors
- Take bridesmaids shopping for their dresses
- Take mom shopping for her Mother of the Bride dress
- Meet with florist and decide on flowers for venue, wedding party and reception
- Meet with caterer to decide on menu and schedule menu tasting
- Book photographer
- Meet with musicians to discuss play list
- Meet with travel agent about honeymoon
- Book reception venue and make deposit

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4 to 6 Months

Ok, take a deep breath and relax, but not too much. Look at all you've accomplished; now it's time for the details.

- Finalize menu with caterer
- Finalize guest list
- Order wedding invitations
- Start shopping for wedding rings
- Make appointment with jeweler if want to custom design rings
- Meet with baker to view and taste cake options
- Order bridesmaids' dresses
- Shop for and order fiancée and groomsmen tuxes
- Book honeymoon
- Make sure passports are current if going out of the country

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2 to 3 Months

Now things are beginning to take form and your dream wedding is unfolding right before your eyes. Just keep focus and have fun.

- Order wedding rings
- Confirm with florist all flowers for ceremony and reception
- Order cake
- Register for gifts
- Shop and order party favors
- Pick song for your first dance
- Finalize play list with musicians

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4 to 8 Weeks

Everything is locked in, your dress is being tailored and everything is ordered. Now is the time to CONFIRM, CONFIRM, CONFIRM.

- Mail wedding invitations
- Order programs for the ceremony
- Go with fiancée to get marriage license
- Obtain, fill-out and mail all necessary forms for your name change
- Pick up wedding rings and check fit
- Final fitting for wedding dress and wedding party
- Make appointment with hair and makeup stylist
- Make nail appointment
- Start shopping for honeymoon clothes
- Purchase wedding party gifts
- Purchase wedding gift for your fiancée
- Pick up your dress and start wearing shoes around the house to ensure comfort on the big day
- If traditionalist—make sure have something old, new, borrowed and blue
- Plan rehearsal dinner
- Pay final payment on reception hall

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1 Week

Can you hear the wedding bells? That's right in just one week you'll go from bride-to-be, to wife! Now just a few minor details before you walk down the aisle into happily ever after.

- Confirm with EVERYONE, caterer, photographer, baker, florist to make sure everything is on schedule
- Confirm wedding party picked up dresses and tuxes
- Get everything packed for honeymoon
- Pick up plane or cruise tickets and travel itinerary for honeymoon from travel agent
- Hold rehearsal dinner and handout wedding day schedule to wedding party
- Take bridesmaids out for brunch and a spa day for the last time as a single gal
- Attend wedding rehearsal
- Schedule two days for yourself, one for family and one for friends

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Reminders: _____
