

Wedding Checklist

This list can be long or simply cut back to the essentials. A budget can range from just a few thousand dollars, or even less if you want that.

It is your wedding and your choice to enjoy your day as you choose with those most important to you.

Don't forget your friends and family will help and professionals can take care of a lot of the detail and work for you.

THE ENGAGEMENT

- Announce your engagement and possibly place an announcement in the newspaper.
- Arrange your engagement party.

SOON AFTER

- Set your wedding date especially consider what date works for your VIP guests.
- Set a wedding budget after working out who will contribute financially.
- Find a bridal consultant, wedding co-coordinator or just plan your own wedding.
- Choose a civil celebrant or religious officiate and book your date & 1st meeting. Celebrants book dates out months, even a year in advance.
- Decide your wedding ceremony location and book it. Visit the spot at the time of day that you want your ceremony to assess the sunlight, weather or wind and traffic or background noise. Even local parks and beaches may need council permission, especially if the location e.g. makes use of a council pagoda. Consider your most convenient wet weather alternatives if having an outdoor event.
- Write your guest list and establish numbers.
- Select your reception party venue and book.
- Consider the wedding style or theme (whether it be religious, secular or a theme)
- Choose the type of entertainment for your reception and possibly for your service and book it. (Professional entertainers book their work months in advance.)
- List any necessary hire equipment.
- Nominate those in your wedding party.
- Begin shopping for a wedding gown or dressmaker and accessories.

- Shop for groom's suit or a tailor and accessories. (e.g. cumber bunds, bowties.)
- Look for suits, dresses and accessories for your bridal party
- Shop for florist and flowers you want.
- Decide your transportation (cars, limousines, horse and carriage).
- Find a photographer/ videographer .
- Plan your accommodation for the wedding night.
- Plan your honeymoon, contact travel agents, arrange work leave.
- Organize passports, visas and vaccinations.
- Collect ideas, pictures and samples as you find them (such as table decorations etc.)
- Consider what you would like to say in your ceremonial vows.
- Discuss whether you want any pre-marital counseling and or legal/tax advice as marriage changes some of these factors .
- Wedding insurance might be a good idea if you are planning a big budget extravaganza.

1-3 MONTHS FROM YOUR WEDDING DAY

- Make an appointment with your wedding officiate and complete the "Notice of Intended Marriage" form a.s.a.p. Finalize wording for your ceremonial vows and special inclusions required for your ceremony.
- Choose your MC, either a professional, friend or family member.
- Shop for or design your wedding rings and order them.
- Finalize your guest list.
- Design, order or make you wedding invitations. Send your invitations (at least 8 weeks prior).
- Buy a guest book. If you like this a memento.
- Decide upon a gift registry and compile a gift list if you wish.
- Choose the style of food , cake and service e.g. buffet, set-menu, open bar, set drink list etc.
- Make final decisions on all items that need to be ordered and booked if haven't done so already
- Book your hire equipment
- Have the fitting for bride, groom and bridal party
- Purchase any wedding accessories.
- Book your wedding night accommodation.
- Finalize and book your honeymoon.
- Consider a hairstylist and makeup artist and book an appointment
- Consider taking dance lessons.

4 WEEKS

- Arrange bucks' night
- Arrange hens' night/bridal shower
- Have wedding rings engraved
- Have hair and make-up trial.

3 WEEKS

- Make sure that all in the wedding party are aware of what is required of them.
- Select music for the ceremony. (and reception)
- Choose the music for the 'first dance, father and bride dance etc.
- Provide a list of music that you would like/not like to have played
- Ensure that all honeymoon travel documents are in order i.e. passport, visa, insurance, traveler's cheques, internationally accepted credit card.

2 WEEKS

- Have bucks' night.
- Have hens' night/bridal shower.
- Wedding rehearsal.
- Final fitting for bride and groom.
- Make sure all wedding attire for bridal party fits properly.
- Check that you have all your accessories in order.
- Confirm that all legal documents are in order (identity verified ,any documents that are better signed early than on the day.)
- Pack bag/luggage for honeymoon.
- Pick up rings.

1 WEEK

- Pick up or arrange delivery for all wedding attire.
- Ensure that all in the bridal parties have what they need.
- Confirm roles and responsibilities for the day.
- Inform caterer/reception venue of total guest count and seating arrangements
- Confirm all services are booked and all delivery times are established.
- Write your speeches.

WEDDING DAY

- Relax and enjoy your wedding day !
- Remember to bring rings and your mobile phones with the most important numbers handy.

- Whatever happens -remember the marriage is more important than the day.

AFTER THE WEDDING

- Name change (driver's license, passport, electoral roll, bank accounts etc.) You will require your official marriage certificate from your State Department Of Births Deaths and Marriages as legal identification.
- A marriage in Australia revokes any previous will. Update your will, any beneficiaries to superannuation/ insurances etc. Car insurances might need to include an extra driver for cover.