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Bride's Calendar

Wedding Planning Guidelines to Follow for a Yearlong Engagement.

12 Months Before

- Buy a wedding planner or date book.
- Consult with fiancé and all parents about budget and style - from colors to cake.
- Select your attendants.
- Decide on wedding and reception sites and reserve both.
- Book consultant, caterer, photographer, videographer, florist and musicians/DJ.

9 Months Before

- With fiancé, visit your clergy member or justice of the peace.
- Choose and order dress and accessories.
- Register for gifts.
- Begin guest list; have fiancé start his.
- Consult travel agent about honeymoon.

6 Months Before

- Plan details with wedding professionals.
- Book calligrapher, portrait photographer and limousines for wedding party.
- Discuss rehearsal dinner with fiancé.
- Complete honeymoon plans with fiancé.
- Set date to order attendants' dresses.
- Order invitations, announcements and thank-you notes.

3 Months Before

- Finish guest list.
- Shop for lingerie and honeymoon clothes.
- Order wedding rings.
- Send announcement to newspaper.
- Make appointment with hairdresser.
- Talk to fiancé about reserving a block of hotel rooms for out-of-town guests.

6-8 Weeks Before

- Mail your invitations.
- Buy groom's wedding gift.
- Choose gifts for your attendants.
- Have final dress and headpiece fitting.
- Have portrait taken.
- Plan your bridesmaids' party.
- Write thank-you notes as you receive gifts.
- Submit request lists to photographer, videographer and musicians/DJ.
- Pick up rings; check engraving.

2-3 Weeks Before

- Get marriage license with fiancé.
- Check honeymoon reservations.
- Address announcements to mail on wedding day.
- Mail rehearsal dinner invitations.

1 Week Before

- Pack; get going-away outfit ready.
- Purchase traveler's checks; inquire about ATMs near your honeymoon site.
- Give final guest count to caterer/reception site.
- Give and/or attend bridesmaids' party.
- Check final details with wedding professionals.
- Keep up with gift acknowledgments.
- Wrap groom's and attendants' gifts to give at rehearsal dinner.