



Bride's Check List

Planning a wedding can be hectic and confusing. San Diego Wedding Insider wants to help bring organization to your wedding preparation.

Take this check list with you and mark each item off upon completion.

12 Months before the Big Day:

- Announce the engagement to family and friends
- Set a wedding date
- Decide on date, style and color of wedding, budget and traditions (consult with groom and all parents)
- Create wedding planning notebook to keep all records and contracts in
- Create a record keeping system to keep track of all of the gifts received throughout the occasion.
- Decide on attendants and ask them if they would like to participate in the special occasion
- If using one, book a wedding consultant
- Visit and book a reception site
- Contact caterers, make appointments and book
- Register with all of your favorite stores
- Shop for and order wedding dress and accessories
- Explore and book a wedding site
- Book the clergy performing the ceremony
- Contact photographers and videographers and book
- Find a florist and book
- Book musicians
- Take picture for engagement announcement

8 to 11 Months before the Big Day:

- Establish a guest list
- Go shopping with attendants to select and order attire including dress and tuxedos, shoes and accessories.
 - o Bridesmaid's
 - o Groomsmen
 - o Flower Girl
 - o Ring Bearer
 - o Hosts/Hostesses
 - o Mother of bride and Mother of groom
 - o Father of bride and Father of groom
- Find a bakery for wedding cake
- Begin making a guest list
- Order wedding invitations and stationary
- Book any tents, structures, china or other furniture for reception
- Submit engagement announcement to your local newspaper
- Plan honeymoon and make all reservations
- Make final decisions on all vendors you will use
- Help parents and/or friends plan an engagement party

4 to 7 Months before the Big Day:

- Make arrangements to obtain marriage license
- Get information on how to change last name
- Order wedding cake from bakery
- Begin dance lessons & exercising
- Book transportation for bride, groom and wedding party
- Make arrangements with groom's parents for rehearsal dinner
- Decide on rings and order
- Make arrangements for out of town guests, including flight and hotel reservations
- Schedule a consultation with hair stylist, make-up stylist and nail manicurist
- Finish revising guest list
- Decide on and order wedding favors, decorations and guest book
- Contact real estate agency and start looking at listings if planning to move
- Make appointment with clergy to discuss rehearsal and wedding arrangements

- Buy wedding shoes and any accessories you are still missing
- Help friends and family with bridal shower and couple shower

1 to 3 Months before the Big Day:

- Address and mail wedding invitations
- Buy wedding attendant's gifts
- Buy gifts for bride and groom to exchange
- Choose a couple of reliable people to assist with wedding and reception details
- Make final music selections and arrangements
- Schedule appointment with hair stylist, make-up stylist and nail manicurist for bride and bridesmaids
- Confirm all arrangements with caterer, photographer, florist and reception facility
- Have final fitting of gown and headpiece
- Arrange final bridesmaids' dresses fitting
- Arrange final groomsmen tuxedos fitting
- Pick up rings and make sure they are the correct size
- Make arrangements with ushers as to where guests will be seated
- Get creative and make place cards for seating at reception
- Confirm all honeymoon reservations, including flight, hotel and activities
- Help plan the bachelor and bachelorette parties
- Write thank you cards for the gifts you have already received and continue the process as you receive gifts, try not to fall behind
- Make sure all of the vendors have deposits and make final confirmation for all arrangements

1 to 2 Weeks before the Big Day:

- Notify caterer of final guest count
- Arrange head table setting and guest table seating
- Pick up wedding gown and all bridesmaids' gowns
- Pick up groom's tuxedo and groomsmen's tuxedos
- Reconfirm all final arrangements with clergy, florist, caterer, reception facility and honeymoon
- Remind all attendants and close family of rehearsal dinner details

- Pack for honeymoon if it is immediately after wedding
- Obtain marriage license if have not done yet
- Arrange for trustworthy family member to give checks to all vendors and to return any items that need to be returned after the wedding
- Look through your wedding planning notebook and make sure every aspect of the wedding is covered
- Make a rough time schedule of entire wedding and reception and review it with a few people to make sure it sounds reasonable

1 to 3 Day before the Big Day:

- Get a manicure and pedicure
- Indulge in a relaxing massage and facial (make sure you won't have an allergic reaction to products used)
- Greet out-of-town guests
- Spend some time with just your fiancé to discuss the upcoming events
- Attend rehearsal and rehearsal dinner and give attendants gifts
- Pack everything you will need at the church and reception including all emergency items

The Big Day

- Go to appointment with hair stylist and make up stylist
- Allow two to three hours to get dressed and ready to walk down the aisle
- Give groom's ring to best man
- Make sure the designated person has the envelopes with all of the fees to go to vendors
- RELAX AND ENJOY THE DAY!!!