Wedding Planning Checklist

Once engaged:

* Pick a date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Budget – who is chipping in what amounts
* Guest list – need to know your location will hold your guests
* Pick a ceremony location
* Pick a reception location
* Theme/colors?

 ASK

* + The person to give away the bride
	+ Maid of honor
	+ Bridesmaids
	+ Flower girl
	+ Best Man
	+ Groomsman
	+ Ring Bearer
* Save-the Dates (6 to 8 months ahead of time: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)
* Engagement photo to newspaper (8 months ahead of time: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)
	+ Invitations (8 weeks ahead: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) – put a “RSVP by” date on them of 3 weeks prior to ceremony; do you want kids or no kids at the reception? (needs to be put on the invites)
* Create a Registry
* Order rings
* Hire:
	+ Officiant
	+ Photographer
	+ DJ
	+ Limo or driver
	+ Videographer
	+ Florist
	+ Cake maker
	+ Caterer
1. Bridal Shower
2. Bachelorette Party
	* Bridal Party Gifts
		+ Ideas: jewelry for the wedding, purses with monograms
3. Bachelor Party
	* Groomsman gifts
4. Get license … not more than 60 days before wedding but more than 24 hours ahead of time - you can get this at your city or town clerk’s office. $40
5. Rehearsal
	* Ask officiant to take license at rehearsal so you do not have to worry about it
6. Thank you gifts
	* Bridal party
	* Parents
7. Wedding Ceremony
* Anyone doing special readings?
* Unity candle?
* Sand ceremony?
	+ - assign someone to be responsible for getting the end “vase” and getting it to you after the ceremony
* Ring warming?
* Wine ceremony w/love letters?
* Hand binding?
	+ Attire … where are each of you going to get ready?
		- Gown
			* Jewelry
			* Shoes
			* Undergarments
			* Hair
			* Headpiece or veil?
			* Make up
			* What you should wear for good luck:

Something old, (provided protection for a baby to come)

something new, (optimism for the future)

something borrowed, (borrowed from another happy bride
provided good luck)

something blue & (sign of fidelity)

a six pence for your shoe (sign of wealth & warded off evil)

* + - Brides maids
			* dresses
			* what jewelry
			* shoes
		- Flower girl
			* Dress
			* Shoes
			* Jewelry
			* Flower bouquet? Basket of petals?
		- Groom
			* Suit/tux
			* shoes
		- Groomsmen
			* Suit/tux
			* Shoes
		- Ring bearer
			* Outfit
			* Pillow? – don’t tie in a knot – just a tight bow
			* Security briefcase?
	+ Rings
	+ Flowers
		- Parents
		- Grandparents
		- Bridal Bouquet
		- Brides maids bouquets
		- Groomsman boutonnieres
		- Flower girl?
	+ How are you getting to ceremony?
	+ Programs?
	+ Location
		- music
		- flowers
	+ Wedding Officiant
		- Get a contract from the officiant – there should not be surprise fees
		- Get the complete ceremony in writing – ask that they stay to the script
		- Ask for a copy to keep … great memento!
	+ Who is driving when you leave?
1. Reception
	* Agenda – poster telling everyone when things are to be timed out
		+ Having appetizers, games or things for people to do while waiting for the wedding party to arrive from photos
	* Any sings: welcome to; gifts; memorial; etc
	* Location
	* Who is cooking/catering
	* Food/menu
	* Drinks – open bar?
		+ have a separate line for non-alcoholic drinks
	* Buffet or sit down
	* DJ
		+ Meet and go over song lists
		+ Make sure they know how to pronounce everyone’s name
	* Tables
		+ Table cloth color/table cloths
		+ Centerpieces
		+ Plates
		+ Silverware
		+ Napkins
	* chairs
	* Seating chart – have or not have? The head table and parents and grandparents are the ones that should get assigned seating
		+ Place cards if you are having assigned seating
	* favors
	* guestbook
	* cake – or other dessert
		+ cake topper
		+ cake cutting knife & server
	* toasting flutes for bride & groom
	* memorial table
	* card box
	* gift table
	* in the restrooms – basket of things guests might need: spray deodorant, mints, tide stick, feminine needs, etc
2. Honeymoon
3. After the honeymoon …
	* Write Thank you’s for gifts
	* Write reviews for your professionals – photographer, DJ, officiant, caterer, florist
	* When you receive your marriage certificate, you may go to Social Security to change your name

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I did a poll of a wedding attendees and brides:

Things to avoid as they have become antiquated customs:

* + - * + Receiving line at the church
				+ Dollar Dance
				+ Garter & Bouquet toss
				+ Super late dinner times
				+ Some people dislike the planned seating – some appreciate it
				+ Head table not including the guests of the party
				+ Cake cutting

Things people liked:

* + - * + Sweetheart table so that bridal party could sit with their significant others
				+ When couples acknowledge dietary restrictions
				+ Having a variety of desserts