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