

# Year-long wedding checklist

Your wedding is about six months to a year away. Do you know what to do and when to do it? Here is a timeline that specifies the approximate time tasks should be completed. Use this list as a guide. *Need a little more help? Ask about our Tone Zone Network Event Planners, help is a call away!*

## Six to 12 months before

- Announce your engagement.
- Decide on what kind of wedding and time of day. Are you prepared to feed your guests dinner or do you want a simple ceremony with cake and punch only? The time of day that you choose will dictate the food choices.
- Pick a date. Do this as soon as possible so that your bridal party and faraway family can begin making arrangements for hotels and scheduling time away from their jobs.
- Choose a location. Remember to take into consideration what the weather could be like on your wedding day.
- Set a budget. This is so important. Discuss it carefully between the two of you and your respective families.
- Start planning the reception. Secure a facility, hotel or whatever suits you for your reception.
- Secure the church and inquire about premarital counseling. Some churches require this.
- Select the bridal party. It is important to do this as soon as possible so these people can set aside time to fulfill their duties and roles in your wedding.
- Choose your colors. Your flowers, attire, linens, and cake will reflect your choice. Since you have to shop for these items fairly far in advance, it is important that you are rock-solid on your color choice.

- Choose and order the bridal gown, bridesmaids' gowns and accessories. Choose wisely and stay within your budget.
- Start planning the honeymoon. The groom often takes the lead on this but it should be a spot you both will enjoy.
- Begin your bridal registry. Visit your favorite stores and choose items that you will need to begin your life together.
- Select and order wedding invitations and announcements.
- Select your Tone Zone DJ, Photographer, Videographer. Keep their phone numbers handy.
- Choose and order the wedding rings.

## Three months before

- Complete a guest list. Plan to have both mothers select their dresses.
- Make reservations for the honeymoon. Remember to tell them you will be newlyweds. You'll be surprised how many perks you will get.
- Confirm the dates and times with the florist, caterer, and church.
- Discuss transportation to and from the wedding and reception sites.
- Order the wedding cake.
- Choose and order tuxes.
- Schedule the bridesmaids' dress fittings. It is also a good time to choose and dye the shoes if necessary.
- Place engagement announcement in newspaper.

- Meet with your Tone Zone photographer for your Engagement Photo session.

## Two months before

- Prepare and mail invitations.
- Get the marriage license.
- Finalize the honeymoon plans.
- Make transportation arrangements.
- Create a "Must Play" music list for your Tone Zone DJ.
- Schedule meetings with your Tone Zone DJ, Photographer and Videographer to review the details of your wedding day.

## One month before

- Reserve accommodations for your guests.
- Record gifts received and send thank you notes. Many couples think that they have to wait to send those thank-yous. Get them done as soon as the gifts begin to arrive.
- Plan the rehearsal dinner. This is the responsibility of the groom and his family but all should work together on it.
- Purchase the gifts for the bridal party. Brides often buy inexpensive earrings or necklaces that the bridesmaids can wear to the wedding. Popular choices for the groomsmen are money clips, key-chains or ball caps.
- Schedule the final fittings for the bride and bridesmaids.
- Have wedding programs printed.

- Schedule appointments at the beauty salon for attendants if needed.

- Host a bridesmaids' luncheon.

- Purchase a guest book and decide where it will go. Some couples place the book just inside the door of the church or wedding area. Some prefer to display it at the reception. In either case, have someone stand nearby to invite guests to sign.

- Meet with your Tone Zone professionals if you have not already.

## Two Weeks

- Arrange to have names changed on your driver's license, social security card etc.
- Finalize the number of guests with the caterer.

## One Week

- Start packing for your honeymoon. Be sure to choose clothing that you won't need during the very busy week.
- Plan seating arrangements for your guests.
- Have a beautician practice fixing your hair. You may also want to practice your make-up or make an appointment at a department store to have it done for you.

## The Wedding Day

- Relax and enjoy your very special day!



**Wedding & Event Services**