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Photography

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Your Wedding Check list:

If you do this in bite size chunks, it won't seem so daunting.

AS SOON AS YOU CAN

- ❖ Make your key decisions on the kind of ceremony, wedding theme and colour scheme.
- ❖ Agree on your wedding budget. (this usually under estimated, so beware!)
- ❖ It may be a good idea to set up dedicated bank account for all wedding costs.
- ❖ Explore venues and make a decision you both agree on and are comfortable with.
- ❖ Consider taking out wedding insurance...as you never know...
- ❖ Book your church or approved venue for your ceremony
- ❖ You must book the ceremony time and date with minister or registrar
- ❖ Give notice at your local register office
- ❖ Book your chosen wedding reception venue
- ❖ Start your wedding scrapbook - with notes, ideas and pictures, This will help you get a clear notion on what you really want, and you wont be influenced by impulse purchases
- ❖ Organise a draft guest list, then discuss who you really want or need to be there
- ❖ Start looking for your wedding dress - try on different styles, make sure you keep an open mind as something you may have never contemplated might just be perfect once you have it on!
- ❖ Choose your bridesmaids...carefully.
- ❖ Get your groom to choose a Best Man- He will be important as he may need a helping hand when going about his groom duties...someone reliable is essential
- ❖ Discuss what needs to be done, then assign tasks for you both
- ❖ Check your passports will still be valid for your honeymoon. If your passports expire - arrange for a passport in your new name (will only be valid from date of marriage)
- ❖ Arrange your travel vaccinations and/or visa if needed
- ❖ Start looking for wedding suppliers - visit, ask questions, get quotes.
- ❖ Make a provisional booking for time off work for your honeymoon
- ❖ Check out local accommodation for guests

6 MONTHS BEFORE

- ❖ Choose and order the bridesmaid dresses- its ok to leave lots of time so that they can arrange to be available for fittings etc.
- ❖ Place the order for your wedding dress
- ❖ Book wedding your wedding car(s) and don't forget car/s for parents if needed
- ❖ Book a florist - think about your choice of wedding flowers
- ❖ Book wedding photographer (see also "Making plans with your wedding photographer.pdf")
- ❖ Book caterers
- ❖ Book toastmaster (if having one)
- ❖ Book any musicians or DJ
- ❖ Book hairdresser
- ❖ Book make-up artist - it's a really good idea to opt for a make up artist as it allows you to really kick back and enjoy your day. They are also normally well tuned into what works on camera and what doesn't so there will be no shiny faces or mismatched base!
- ❖ Book any other wedding entertainment

5 MONTHS BEFORE

- ❖ Start to assemble a wedding gift list
- ❖ Book honeymoon (and travel insurance)
- ❖ Confirm holiday dates with your work
- ❖ Start looking for wedding accessories - shoes, veil, tiara, jewellery etc
- ❖ Book your first night's accommodation
- ❖ Finalise guest list
- ❖ Decide on and order your wedding cake
- ❖ Organise your wedding stationery/make your own

4 MONTHS BEFORE

- ❖ Finalise gift list
- ❖ Buy bridal lingerie- remember to then take this along to all your bridal fittings! Suggest your bridesmaids do the same.
- ❖ Start thinking about favours, table decorations, table names and place cards

3 MONTHS BEFORE

- ❖ Arrange suit fittings for the groom and groomsmen
- ❖ Choose your favourite wedding rings
- ❖ Send invitations to all your guests
- ❖ Settle on and finalise all the wedding flowers required for your wedding day
- ❖ Begin to think about what vows and readings to have
- ❖ Choose your ceremony music
- ❖ Start looking at first dance ideas and practice, practice, practice!
- ❖ Create song list requests (including songs not to play!)
- ❖ Order favours and table decorations if not making your own
- ❖ Buy wedding shoes- remember to fit them on and have a good walk around the room. Think of it this way: You will be wearing these for a whole day and will be on your feet for the most of it, so you absolutely want to be comfortable and happy whilst dancing the night away at your reception. You may wish to consider having your shoes coloured to add a touch of unexpected colour under a gorgeous wedding dress.
- ❖ Buy wedding veil and tiara- remember to hang your veil out the night before the wedding, preferably in a room like the bathroom after a shower. This will naturally work out the creases and make your veil lie in the way it was cut. Never, ever steam a veil.

2 MONTHS BEFORE

- ❖ Decide what vows and readings to have and confirm with your minister/registrar
- ❖ Confirm ceremony details with minister/registrar (including order of service)
- ❖ Suit fittings
- ❖ Have trial run with hairdresser and/or make-up artist
- ❖ Buy guest book

1 MONTH BEFORE

- ❖ Book in for your final wedding dress fittings
- ❖ Organize final fittings for bridesmaids, page boy and flower girl
- ❖ Choose your favourite wedding day perfume- this can be a fun thing to do with your bridesmaids, meet in a department store after work one evening and maybe follow it up with girly cocktails once you've found the perfect scent!
- ❖ Confirm all bookings with your wedding suppliers
- ❖ Provide your photographer with a "wish list" of shots you would like to be taken - make sure they take pictures of your accessories and dress. Experienced photographers can make some beautiful and stylish images that you can use for thank you cards later.

- ❖ Finalise your honeymoon booking, timings etc with your travel agent
- ❖ Check timings with the venue - including deliveries and wedding day agenda
- ❖ Buy clothes for honeymoon- remember that if you are having a winter wedding, it may not be cold where you are going, Bikini's ladies!
- ❖ Have your stag do
- ❖ Have your hen do
- ❖ Select who to have as your two witnesses
- ❖ Organise a date for your wedding rehearsal (if church wedding)
- ❖ Contact any guests who have not yet responded to the invitations
- ❖ Agree and confirm any reception formalities and timings - to include receiving line, speeches and cake cutting. (Ask your photographer to help with this)

2 WEEKS BEFORE

- ❖ Confirm seating plan and provide the venue and your caterers with a copy
- ❖ Have place cards and table plan printed- There are some striking ideas to be had using items found around the house, or in local stores such as pegging names to old bird cages etc., so make sure you have a good look in magazines and online before you make a decision. Choose to be different!
- ❖ Make the favours and any other table decorations (if making your own)
- ❖ Inform your caterers of the final numbers and include any details of special dietary requirements
- ❖ Make any outstanding payments that are required in advance
- ❖ Wear your wedding shoes around the house to "bed" them in properly. You'll be glad you did...trust me on this one

1 WEEK BEFORE

- ❖ Get a haircut (groom) - This permits for any 'slightly too short' cuts to grow out a little before the day.
- ❖ Pack for your honeymoon...NOW!
- ❖ Final check for all outfits - everyone to try on complete outfit to make sure everything is ok
- ❖ Put together a schedule of wedding day timings and circulate it to the wedding party. Give a copy of contact details for the wedding suppliers to the best man- this is a great idea for reassurance!
- ❖ Buy any last minute items for honeymoon
- ❖ Write thank you cards for your helpers and wrap any thank you gifts
- ❖ Finalise arrangements with hairdresser/make-up artist re timings

THE DAY BEFORE

- ❖ Drop off any decorations, table plan, place cards, favours and your guest book (and a couple of spare pens) at your venue
- ❖ Withdraw monies for any cash payments to be made on the day
- ❖ Give your wedding rings to the best man
- ❖ Ensure your honeymoon luggage is packed and ready to be collected or taken with you in your car. **Don't forget to pack your tickets and passports.**
- ❖ Ready your wedding dress, accessories, make-up and perfume so everything is to hand for the morning (or pack everything up if you're getting ready elsewhere)
- ❖ Make sure you have an emergency kit packed for your wedding day – this should include plasters, mints, safety pins, pain-killers, make-up, mini hairspray and deodorant, contact lens solution or spare glasses if worn.
- ❖ Speak to all of your attendants to check they all know what they need to do and when to do it
- ❖ Go and get pampered! Have a manicure, pedicure and beauty treatment (but not a facial!).
- ❖ Make time to relax - have a nice bath, chill out and get to bed early. A massage can be a great way for the both of you to relax.
- ❖ **Set your alarm** - although you'll probably wake up early anyway

YOUR WEDDING DAY

- ❖ Eat a hearty breakfast! It may be quite some time before your wedding breakfast
- ❖ Check that your wedding bouquet, buttonholes and corsages have arrived
- ❖ Double check that the best man has rings, copies of speeches, vows, readings and any messages

AFTER THE WEDDING

- ❖ Return any hired clothing
- ❖ Send some of your wedding cake to anyone who couldn't make the wedding
- ❖ Write your thank you letters
- ❖ Take your wedding dress to be cleaned
- ❖ Meet your photographer to order your wedding photos
- ❖ Enjoy married life!

NB:
Without prejudice.

The content above is to be used as guidelines only and by no way intended to be prescriptive.

It is hoped that the information contained herein will assist you when planning your wedding photography needs.