

BRIDAL CORNER

Planning a wedding in the New Year

Making a list and checking it twice— and three times— and four times

RONDA ADDY
Special to The IFP

Whenever there is a lot to do, it's always a good idea to make a list. It's pretty much taken for granted that the bride or someone helping the bride will make a to-do list, but what about the groom? Believe it or not, the groom also has a lot to do. Here is a brief list.

12 months or more

- Buy the engagement ring.
- Find an officiate.
- Book the reception.
- Sit down with the parents and discuss financial obligations.

Seven to 12 months

- Begin putting together the guest list.
- Choose the best man, groomsmen and ushers (one usher for every 50 guests).
- Register for gifts.
- Arrange to pay for the bridal bouquet, corsages and boutonnieres.
- Decide on a menu.
- Schedule the engagement photo session.
- Select and order the male attendants' clothing.

Four to six months

- Begin shopping for wedding rings.
- Find a place to live and shop for furniture.
- Review passports and visas.

- Finalize honeymoon plans.
- Book wedding transportation for the wedding party and any out-of-town guests.
- Go over the guest list.
- Plan the rehearsal dinner.

Two to three months

- Finalize the guest list.
- Reserve rooms for any out-of-town guests and for the wedding night.
- Shop for a gift for the bride and gifts for the groomsmen.
- Get any additional clothing needed for the honeymoon and wedding events.
- Consider getting a physical and making a will.
- Confirm arrangements for the rehearsal dinner.

Eight weeks to one month

- Pick up the wedding rings.
- Make arrangements for any final payments.
- Make sure all the fittings for the groomsmen and any others are done.
- Get the marriage license.

Two to three weeks

- Confirm all transportation.
- Confirm the honeymoon details.
- Begin moving into new home or apartment.
- Go to the bachelor party.
- Schedule a haircut.
- Send out change-of-address forms.

One week

- Pack for the honeymoon.
- Reconfirm rehearsal dinner plans.
- Get traveler's checks.
- Go over the wedding day schedule with the bride.
- Remind those in the wedding party to pick up their suits.
- Make sure shoes are shined.

One day

- Attend the rehearsal dinner.
- Give the gifts to the groomsmen.
- Confirm transportation pick-up times.
- Pick up tuxedo.
- Explain any special seating arrangements to the head usher.

Wedding Day

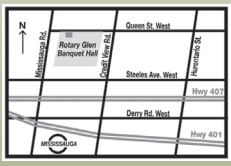
- Make sure the best man has the rings and licence.
- Give the best man money for any fees for the officiate, DJ, limo, etc., in sealed envelopes.
- Sign the marriage certificate and make sure it is safely put away.

Some of these items will also be on the bride's to-do list, so the groom should consult her on the really important things. By making a list and checking it many times, the groom will be well prepared for the big day and won't be embarrassed by forgetting something.



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