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photography

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PORTRAITGALLERY-VT.COM

The Ultimate Wedding Guide

by Geoffrey McLoughlin

The idea of planning your wedding might seem scary! It doesn't have to be. A good checklist helps you keep track of what you have done, and what needs to be done, and when! After photographing over 1,000 weddings, I have seen it all. Let me be your friend, and advisor, and together you can have your Perfect Wedding! It is never too early to start! This guide will help you down the path.

12 to 18 Months to Go

- ☐ PICK THE DATE
(Pick a Season & Day of the Week)
- ☐ SET A BUDGET (& Start Saving)
- ☐ CHOOSING YOUR GUEST LIST
(Do What is Right For You)
- ☐ PICK YOUR WEDDING PARTY
(Evenly & Make sure Dependable)
- ☐ GET SOME HELP (Wedding Planners, or Ask Married Friends & Get Venue Reviews)
- ☐ WEDDING INSURANCE (Something to Consider in Case of Health, Weather, Finances...)

8 to 12 Months to Go

- ☐ SCHEDULE ENGAGEMENT PORTRAITS
- ☐ BOOK PHOTOGRAPHERS
- ☐ SHOP FOR THE DRESS
(Consider a Party Dress)
- ☐ PICK OUT RINGS
- ☐ SEND OUT YOUR SAVE THE DATES
- ☐ SELECT A THEME AND COLOR PALETTE
- ☐ FIND A CATERER (Have a Basic Menu Idea Planned & Do Some Tastings)
- ☐ DON'T FORGET THE CAKE!
- ☐ BUILD A WEBSITE
- ☐ FIND LODGING
- ☐ HIRE ENTERTAINMENT

The Ultimate Wedding Guide Continued...

4 to 8 Months to Go

- ☐ SEND INVITATIONS
- ☐ SHOP FOR BRIDESMAIDS DRESSES (& Shoes)
- ☐ SHOP FOR GROOMSMEN SUITS (& Shoes)
- ☐ CREATE A GIFT REGISTRY
- ☐ PICK OUT FLOWERS
- ☐ DECIDE ON HAIR AND MAKEUP (& Schedule a Trial)
- ☐ RESERVE TRANSPORTATION
- ☐ PLAN THE HONEYMOON
- ☐ FIND YOUR OFFICIANT

1 to 4 Months to Go

TAKE CARE OF THE DETAILS

- ☐ Gifts for Wedding Party members
- ☐ Accessories: Shoes, Jewelry, Party Favors, etc.
- ☐ Schedule a hair and makeup trial (1 month prior)
- ☐ Schedule a final dress fitting
- ☐ Contact all vendors & arrange meetings if possible
- ☐ Plan the bachelor and bachelorette parties, if your best man and maid of honor are not doing so
- ☐ Assign seating for guests
- ☐ Put together an emergency kit for the day
- ☐ Finalize your officiant plans
- ☐ Finalize Rehearsal Dinner plans

LAST MONTH BEFORE

- ☐ Now is a good time for a spa day. Spoil yourself a bit, you deserve it.
- ☐ Schedule a final haircut, but not too close to the actual day
- ☐ Finalize Wedding Party plans
- ☐ Break in your shoes if they are new, and have a backup pair just in case, or for the dance floor
- ☐ Arrange time off at work
- ☐ Finalize guest list with your venue
- ☐ Finalize a seating chart, and a timeline with your venue
- ☐ Meet with your photographer and create a photo time line. Consider a First Look.

THE DAY BEFORE

- ☐ Have the entire Wedding Party try on their dresses and suit-coats (including the groom)
- ☐ Go over speeches and vows
- ☐ Get an early night and drink lots of water
- ☐ Each of you should write a letter to your partner, to be presented a few hours before the wedding

THE BIG DAY!

- ☐ Eat a big breakfast
- ☐ Arrive early and get ready early
- ☐ First Look is perfect to streamline the day
- ☐ Drink lots of water early in the day, but not right before the ceremony
- ☐ Have fun!



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