

OCEAN PARK FLOWERS

Not sure when to buy your gown, book your photographer, or send your invitations? Stay on track with this countdown checklist.

12 Months

- Announce your engagement
- Choose a wedding theme and style
- Work out a basic wedding budget
- Research reception venues
- Determine number of guests
- Look through bridal magazines for apparel ideas
- Meet potential wedding consultants
- Research wedding service providers:
 - Florists
 - Photographers
 - Videographers
 - Bands or DJs (for reception)
 - Musicians (for ceremony)
- Draft a wedding budget

11 Months

- Determine theme/decorations for your reception
- Meet with several caterers ... arrange for tastings
- Select and book a caterer
- Reserve musicians/DJ for reception
- Determine wedding ceremony musicians and make musical selections

11 Months cont.

- Book wedding videographer and photographer; make a list of photos desired; such as must-have photos of the bride and groom, fun bridal party ideas, and traditional bridal, ceremony and reception shots
- Book florist
- Select and reserve your ceremony venue and schedule a rehearsal time
- Choose reception venue; negotiate contract and provide deposit
- Secure parking and/or transportation for your guests at the reception location
- Visit bridal stores to browse their selection of gowns
- Choose your wedding-party members and ask them to participate in your celebration
- Meet with your Officiant to discuss the wedding ceremony
- Mail “save-the-dates” for a destination wedding

10 Months

- Select and order your wedding gown
- If your ceremony or reception will be held in a park or recreational area, obtain necessary permits
- Discuss attendants' duties with your maid of honor and bridesmaids

9 Months

- Register for wedding gifts
- Coordinate with vendors to incorporate your theme/style into all aspects of your wedding
- Select the food and liquor to be served at your reception
- Prepare a playlist of wedding reception musical selections

9 Months cont.

- Select and order your
 - headpiece
 - veil
 - gloves
 - shoes
- Confirm orders of and delivery dates for your wedding attire
- Research airlines, hotel, and rental-car reservations for out-of-town guests whom you are assisting

8 Months

- Go to first gown fitting; invite your maid(s) of honor to attend
- Choose and order bridesmaid dresses and accessories
- Research wedding ring styles
- Communicate with florist re: any changes in dresses, style, décor

7 Months

- Review and finalize your wedding details with venue
- Notify bridesmaids about dress fittings
- Discuss attire with groomsmen and make referrals to local formalwear store
- Select attire for flower girl and/or ring bearer
- Determine the design, wording, font and paper stock for your wedding invitations, stationery, table and escort cards and thank-you notes; finalize order
- Arrange a printer for table cards
- Determine order-of-ceremony events and choose appropriate wording for your programs
- Negotiate rates and book a block of hotel rooms for out-of-town guests
- Select and order your wedding rings
- Purchase bridal accessories: jewelry, lingerie, etc.
- Choose and order something fun for guests to throw after your ceremony (rose petals, confetti or birdseed)

6 Months

- Review and approve proofs of wedding invitations and stationery
- Discuss the type of honeymoon you want, start reading up on potential destinations and consult a travel agent for ideas and suggestions.

5 Months

- Order table and/or escort cards; place print order for programs
- Finalize choice of honeymoon destination
- Taste a variety of wedding cakes and select a baker; place cake order and arrange for delivery
- Secure reservations for rehearsal dinner and select menu

4 Months

- Determine method of addressing wedding invitations and hire a calligrapher, if applicable
- Hand-address (this gives a nice personal touch) wedding invitations. Or print labels.
- Write or choose your wedding vows
- Have groom visit formalwear shops and try on tuxedos
- Purchase or rent groom's wedding accessories, including tuxedo, cuff links, shoes, socks, etc.
- Make honeymoon reservations and place all deposits

3 Months

- Review and approve wedding announcement and printed program
- Book venue or secure reservations for post-wedding brunch
- Discuss bachelorette party with your attendants
- Plan your bridesmaids' luncheon or dinner

3 Months cont.

- Make appointment with stylist and/or hairdresser to discuss your wedding hairstyle
- Take another look at your registry and update or add items
- Create hotel information cards and maps to include with your wedding invitations

2 Months

- Secure a wedding-day dressing room for your bridesmaids
- Weigh, purchase postage for and mail wedding invitations
- Go to final gown fitting; arrange for pickup or delivery
- Have groom's formalwear fitted
- If you plan to have a prenuptial agreement, meet with your attorney to discuss it
- Purchase gifts for all wedding-party members and your parents
- Arrange transportation for bride and groom from the ceremony site to the reception
- Purchase ceremony accessories (Unity candle, wine stems, etc.)

6 Weeks

- Purchase a new camera, if needed
- Send rehearsal dinner invitations
- Write thank-you notes as you receive gifts
- Confirm music selections ("playlist") with musicians/DJ
- Select menu for post-wedding brunch
- Write newspaper announcement and gather photos
- Purchase a gift for your spouse-to-be
- Shop for wedding favors
- Purchase honeymoon clothing, luggage and accessories
- Go in for a practice hairstyling and make day-of-wedding hair appointment

4 Weeks

- Confirm floral order and arrange for delivery times
- Meet with ushers and assign duties for ceremony and reception
- Discuss the details of your wedding ceremony with your officiant
- Determine the placement or distribution of programs at the ceremony venue
- Arrange for preparation, storage and break areas for musicians/DJ at the reception venue
- Determine seating arrangements for guests
- If you color your hair, make appointment for a touch-up the week before your wedding
- Go in for a dry run with a professional makeup artist and make a day-of-wedding appointment
- Schedule an appointment for a manicure and/or pedicure the day before your wedding
- Finalize details with wedding photographer and videographer, determining arrival times at each nuptial venue
- Arrange for preparation/storage area for photographer and videographer at each nuptial venue
- Sign your prenuptial agreement, if applicable
- Finalize honeymoon plans/itinerary and confirm all travel and hotel reservations
- Arrange for transportation to and from the airport
- Make all necessary arrangements for care of pet(s), plants and mail while you're away on honeymoon
- Post announcement and photo on your wedding website
- Arrange for table card setup at reception venue
- Schedule pickup/return of groom's formalwear

3 Weeks

- Finalize list of reception guests
- Give the final headcount to the caterer and review details
- Arrange for delivery and placement of wedding flowers, candles and other decorations on the day of the ceremony
- Contact anyone who has not responded to your wedding invitation

1 Week

- Confirm your honeymoon travel arrangements
- Start packing bags for your honeymoon
- Get traveler's checks and/or a small amount of foreign cash
- Pick up your wedding dress

Wedding Day!

- Eat a good breakfast
- Attend hairstyle appointment
- Give yourself plenty of time to get ready
- Marry the love of your life
- Enjoy the celebration!

Post-Wedding: 3 Days

- Arrange for transport of gifts
- Have family or friends mail wedding announcements

After the Honeymoon

- Take wedding gown and veil to a dry cleaner who specializes in gown preservation
- Submit name-change forms for driver's license, passport, banks, credit cards, etc.