

## Use this precise timeline that AMLTWP has created just for YOU!

(Bride) \_\_\_\_\_  
 &  
 (Groom) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Wedding date) \_\_\_\_\_

### 12 months plus, date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Begin envisioning your wedding --- formal hotel or friend's loft? Backyard barbecue or exotic beach?
- Decide on a budget and hash out who's contributing.
- Make sure to insure your engagement ring.
- Pick your preferences for a wedding date and time, and finalize after checking with important guests, location, or officiant.
- Begin interviewing wedding consultants (if you'll have one) AND / OR start asking family AND friends FOR local wedding vendor recommendations.
- Brides: It's never too early to begin thinking about your gown. Start by figuring out what style will look best on you.

### 9-11 months, date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Scout out reception sites.
- Start looking for an officiant who suits your style and spirit.
- Book your reception site as soon as you see something you love that's available on your date.
- If you're having an engagement party, set a date, draft a guest list, and purchase your invitations.
- Begin working on a preliminary wedding guest list and decide on your wedding's approximate size. Request lists from both sets of parents and create your own wish list.
- Get organized! Start a notebook/file folder to house all your wedding-planning paperwork in one place.
- Choose your bridesmaids/groomsmen and ask them to be in the wedding party.
- Find a ceremony site if one hasn't been determined by your choice of officiant or reception site.
- Hire a consultant (if you're having one) and sign a contract.

- Contact newspapers to announce your engagement (you may need to have an engagement photo taken as well).
- Decide on a caterer. Hash out a rough price per head and begin working on a menu.
- Choose a color scheme, if you so desire, taking into account the decor of the rooms/areas you have reserved for your ceremony and reception.
- Brides: Begin looking at pictures of gowns online and in magazines.
- Brides: When you've found some gowns you like, head out to the stores to try them on.
- Start investigating any ethnic customs or cultural traditions you might want to incorporate into your ceremony or reception.
- Finalize the guest list.
- Sign your caterer contract and send in a deposit.
- Start auditioning reception bands or DJs.
- If you've chosen an outdoor ceremony or reception site, look into tent and lighting rentals.
- Set up appointments with various florists to discuss options.
- Decide on and meet with your officiant to discuss ceremony structure and any religious requirements (such as counseling).
- Interview and get price lists from several photographers and videographers.
- Book reception band or DJ, sign the contract, and send a deposit.
- Brides: Narrow down your gown choices and make a final decision.

**6-8 months, date:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Start looking into registering for gifts.
- Request demo tapes from ceremony musicians.
- Think about how you might want to wear your hair.
- Begin looking for a baker to make your wedding cake. Your caterer is the best source for leads.
- Reserve photographer and/or videographer, decide on a package, sign contract, and send deposit.
- Brides: Start shopping for bridesmaid dresses.
- Choose your florist and send a deposit to reserve their services.
- Make sure your maid of honor and best man are aware of what you expect of them -- providing a list of their duties will help.
- Register for your wedding gifts, and don't forget to include some choices appropriate for your upcoming bridal shower or engagement party as well.
- Set aside blocks of hotel rooms for out-of-town guests.

- Brides: Decide on the bridesmaid dresses.
- Purchase and send guests save-the-dates if your celebration is over a holiday weekend or at a faraway locale.
- Book a baker, choose your wedding cake design, and send a deposit.
- Brides: Collect necessary measurements from attendants or pass along vendor information so that they can order the dresses themselves.
- Brides: Order your gown. Make sure you've asked all the critical questions and your order contains the correct information.
- Book ceremony musicians and send deposit.
- Start planning the rehearsal dinner. Provide the host with contact information for your attendants and any other guests.
- Start working on your invitation wording and design.
- Finalize your invitation wording.
- Finalize menu and service details with caterer.
- Order your invitations and announcements (don't forget plenty of extra envelopes).

#### **4-5 Months, date: \_\_\_\_\_**

- Decide on a floral scheme, choose flowers, and negotiate prices with florist. Be sure to sign a contract outlining what you agreed upon.
- Start thinking about flower arrangement styles you like, and figure out what flowers will be in season on your wedding day.
- Grooms: Decide what style of formalwear you will be wearing.
- Reserve tables, chairs, and/or other rental equipment you'll need (unless caterer or site is taking care of it).
- Book a calligrapher (if you are using one).
- Grooms: Start looking to buy or rent tux, suit, or other formal attire.
- Book rehearsal-dinner site.
- Grooms: Start planning your groomsmen's attire: Tux or suit?
- Book hotel room for your wedding night.
- Compile packages for out-of-town guests with hotel reservation and city information, and mail them out.
- Grooms: Decide on your groomsmen's attire.

#### **2-3 Months**

- Brides: Choose your bridesmaids' accessories (shoes, gloves, etc.) and either purchase or pass along purchasing information.

- Grooms: Give all of the groomsmen the information they need to buy and/or reserve their attire.
- Shop for and purchase wedding bands.
- If you haven't registered yet, be sure to do so before any upcoming prewedding parties.
- Brides: Experiment with your beauty routine, self-tanners, and facials.
- Consider specific ceremony and reception decoration needs like a huppah, aisle runner, etc.
- Schedule portrait session if you need one for a newspaper wedding announcement.
- Make or buy favors. Allow extra time for custom-made favors (i.e., chocolates in a preprinted box).
- Brides: Make sure your attendants have purchased their dresses and accessories.
- Pick up your invitations.
- Talk to your maid of honor and best man about party plans (such as the shower and bachelor party).
- Get anything you need for an international honeymoon (passport, birth certificate, visas, vaccinations, etc.).
- Brides: Buy any special lingerie your gown requires in time for first fittings.
- Grooms: If you are renting a tux, visit the formalwear shop to get measured.
- Start taking better care of yourself (eat right, exercise) so you look and feel great on your wedding day.
- Start addressing invitations or drop them off with the calligrapher (you'll need to send them out at the two-month mark).
- Talk to people you'd want to do special performances or readings as part of the ceremony.
- If you are handling the bridesmaid dress order, confirm the delivery date.
- Brides: Confirm delivery date for your gown and schedule fittings.
- Arrange for all insurance policies to include you and your future spouse: health, auto, homeowner's, and life insurance.
- Send wedding bands out to be engraved (make sure they'll be back in time for the wedding).
- Grooms: Choose and buy any accessories you will need: shoes, shirt stays, cuff links, and a pocket square.
- Brides: Provide a guest list to bridesmaids for your shower.
- Brides: Begin your fittings.
- Arrange wedding-day transportation for you, your wedding party, and guests (as needed).

**6 Weeks, date:** \_\_\_\_\_

- As you receive presents, be sure to update and/or add items to your registry list and record the gifts you get.
- Confirm reservations for out-of-town guests.
- Arrange parking for the reception.
- Order liquor, wine and/or champagne if they're not included in the catering contract.
- Brides: Decide on and purchase major accessories (veil and shoes) prior to final fittings.
- Begin working on vows, particularly if you're writing your own.
- Begin writing the ceremony program if you are having one.
- Arrange for a babysitter for the reception, if necessary.
- Submit your wedding announcement to newspapers (if you so desire).
- Research local marriage license requirements.
- Buy a guest book (and a nice pen).
- Set aside some time to write thank-you notes for gifts received at the bridal shower.
- Make an appointment to take the veil to your hairstylist and make sure your wedding hair and veil work together.
- Grooms: Attend your bachelor party (and be sure to thank the best man afterwards).
- Grooms: Buy gifts for your best man, groomsmen, and ushers.
- Brides: Buy gifts for your maid of honor and bridesmaids.
- Finalize vows.

**3-4 Weeks, date:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Send rehearsal dinner invitations.
- Do trial runs of hair and makeup; schedule wedding-day beauty appointments.
- Finish and print ceremony programs.
- Get marriage license and make appointments for blood tests (if necessary). Check when the license expires.
- Work on a list of "must-play" (and "must-not play") songs for your DJ or band.
- Discuss music with ceremony musicians and agree on final choices.
- Confirm wedding-night and honeymoon reservations.
- Wrap all gifts for the wedding party and write each attendant a nice note.
- Brides: Shop for all additional accessories like stockings, earrings, evening bag, etc.

- Have a follow-up meeting or phone call with the officiant to go over ceremony timing and details.
- Pick up wedding rings and check the inscriptions before you leave the store.
- Make sure your homeowner's or renter's insurance covers your rings and gifts.
- Sit for your bridal portrait, if you decide to get one.
- Do paperwork for official documents if you are changing your name.
  - Work out wedding day timing and details (who will get the bride there, where the wedding party will dress, etc) and draw up a schedule.
- Brides: Get final prewedding haircut, if necessary.
- Brides: Make sure you have your garter and "something old, new, borrowed, and blue" if you want to include these customs in your wedding.
- Call or email wedding party to relay critical info related to rehearsal and wedding (dates, times, directions, duties).
- Brides: Pick up your gown.
- Get a head start on those thank-you notes (it will feel great to get a batch out before the wedding).

**1-2 Weeks, date:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Give final head count to the caterer. Confirm set-up instructions and menu items.
- Brides: Pick up the veil and/or headpiece.
- Call location manager and make sure your vendors all have access to the site when they need it.
- Confirm head count, delivery time, and location with the cakemaker.
- Plan a party or go out for cocktails to thank your attendants for all their help.
- Brides: Practice walking in your wedding shoes.
- Call guests who haven't RSVP'd for the wedding and rehearsal dinner. It's okay to do this, you need a final head count!
- If you're having a receiving line, determine the order you want everyone to stand in.
- Determine any wedding day assignments for members of the wedding party, and make lists/info sheets as needed.
- Start putting together the seating plan if you're having a seated reception meal.
- Finalize seating chart. Buy materials for and make place cards (give typed names to the calligrapher if you're using one).
- Shop and pack for honeymoon.
- Confirm all final payment amounts with your vendors.
- Confirm location, date, and time with photographer; get ideas for "must-take" photos.

- Touch base with your officiant and give him/her rehearsal details and wedding day schedule.
- Confirm delivery locations, times, and final arrangement count with florist.
- Grooms: Pick up your tux and try it on. (Don't wait until the day of to do this!)
- Confirm location, date, and time with videographer.
- Plan any additional night-before activities with friends and/or attendants.
- Fax transportation providers a schedule and addresses for pickups on wedding day.
- Prepare your toasts or thanks to friends and family. (Grooms: Need a hand?)
- Grooms: Get your final haircut.
- Give seating chart to caterer, location manager, or host.
- Distribute wedding-day directions, schedule, and contact list to all parents, attendants, and vendors.
- Designate who will meet, greet, and handle each vendor on the wedding day.
- Put together an overnight bag for your wedding night (toothbrush, sexy lingerie, etc.) and designate someone to deliver it to the hotel for you.
- Brides: Get a manicure and pedicure and confirm big-day beauty appointments.
- Designate someone to collect the wedding gifts (and any cash) brought to the party.
- Confirm date, location, time, and playlist with band/DJ and/or ceremony or cocktail hour musicians.
- Leave a copy of your honeymoon itinerary with someone in case of emergency.

**Day before, date:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Rehearse the ceremony with officiant and wedding party.
- Confirm all specific honeymoon travel plans (including transportation to airport, etc.).
- Give wedding announcements to your honor attendant to be mailed on the wedding day.
- Brides: Pull together wedding gown, veil, shoes, stockings, and a last-minute emergency kit (aspirin, make up, safety pins, mints, etc.).
- Have fun and relax at your rehearsal dinner.
- If your wedding is in the a.m., set your alarm and arrange for a backup.
- Get some much-needed sleep -- if you can!

**Day of, date:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Set aside a private moment together after the ceremony to exchange gifts and a

sweet congratulatory kiss (or two).

- Confirm with people who you expect to give/lead toasts at the reception.
- Take a moment to thank your parents and tell them you love them -- this is a sweet but sad day for them.

***After Wedding, date:*** \_\_\_\_\_

- Arrange for a bridesmaid or mom to pick up your wedding dress and other personal belongings at the hotel after you depart.
- Freeze the top layer of the wedding cake to be eaten at your first anniversary celebration (save some cocktail napkins, too!).
- Take the bridal bouquet and other wedding mementos to be preserved, if you're a true sentimentalist.
- Arrange for gown and veil to be cleaned and preserved. Make sure the provider is experienced in preserving wedding gowns.
- Take any personal film to be developed. These will probably be the first photos available since professional proofs can take weeks.
- Mail gifts to your parents to thank them for their help and support, if you didn't give them out at the rehearsal dinner.
- Make sure all vendor bills have been paid in full.
- Find out when you can expect your edited wedding video (if you used a videographer).
- Within two months of your wedding, set aside some romantic evenings to write that stack of thank-you notes.

**Please use the bottom of this page for additional notes:**