

# BLUEPRINT

FOR A WELL-PLANNED WEDDING

*Follow the color-coordinated tabs throughout the magazine for ease in planning.*

## Step 1

### SETTING THE STAGE

*9–12 months before wedding date*

- Set a date for the wedding
- Decide on style and size of wedding
- Set an event budget
- Select a wedding consultant
- Begin shopping for your gown, headpiece and accessories
- Arrange hair and makeup consultation
- Select and reserve:
  - Reception site
  - Photographer
  - Videographer
- Meet with Clergy or Officiant
- Choose members of the wedding party
- Begin your guest list
- Order Invitations, stationery and save-the-date cards

## Step 2

### YOUR WEDDING IS TAKING SHAPE

*6–9 months before wedding date*

Interview and Select:

- Caterer
  - Decide on rehearsal dinner site.
  - Musician(s)
  - Ceremony site
  - Florist
  - Order your gown
  - Choose and order bridesmaids' dresses
  - Select store(s) for bridal registry
  - Choose your color scheme and start planning decorations
  - Reserve equipment, such as tables, chairs, or tents
  - Choose and order men's attire
- Help mothers of the bride and groom choose their dresses
  - Finalize the guest list
  - Devise a record-keeping system for gifts and thank-you notes
  - Send save-the-date cards to out-of-town guests.
  - Begin registry process
  - Begin planning wedding ceremony
  - Finalize honeymoon reservations
  - If you or your fiancé don't dance, begin dance lessons

## Step 3

### FILLING IN THE FINER POINTS

*3–6 months before wedding date*

- Select and order your wedding cake
- Finalize reception menu
- Be sure deposits are paid and contracts are signed
- Send vendors confirmation letters, including date, time and location
- Refine the guest list and be sure you have all addresses
- Hire a calligrapher
- Start addressing envelopes
- Arrange gown and bouquet preservation
- Finalize honeymoon plans; get passports
- Arrange out-of-town guest accommodations
- Arrange wedding transportation
- Schedule fittings for gown, tuxedo, attendants' dresses
- Purchase wedding rings; order engraving
- Shop for trousseau
- Attend showers and parties in your honor!

## Countdown to Wedding Day!

*2–3 months before wedding date*

- Map out Wedding Day activities; share schedule with vendors
- Destination Weddings: Send out destination details
- Work with your entertainment team, including music selection
- Mail wedding invitations six weeks in advance, sooner if a destination wedding
- Get marriage license
- Decide on rehearsal date and time
- Write a toast to your parents/groom's parents
- Finalize décor details with vendors
- Order wedding favors
- Order liquor
- Plan your bridesmaids' party
- Buy gifts for attendants and parents
- Buy the groom's wedding gift
- Select ceremony readings and write vows
- Discuss the ceremony details with officiant
- Purchase wedding shoes; begin breaking them in
- Confirm hair and makeup appointments

*2 weeks before wedding date*

- Provide caterer with final head count
- Write the reception place cards
- Schedule final fittings
- Run through hair and makeup
- Take care of your legal name change (if appropriate)
- Submit change of address to the post office
- Discuss the ceremony seating with fiancé and ushers
- Buy guest book
- Reconfirm reservations
- Pick up the rings
- Reconfirm your honeymoon reservations
- Pack for honeymoon!
- Write thank-you notes as you receive gifts
- Prepare payment envelopes for fees and gratuities

*The day before your wedding*

- Get a manicure and pedicure
- Rehearse the wedding and attend the rehearsal dinner
- Pack things to take to the wedding site
- Get a good night's sleep
- Mail "thank you" gifts to parents