

Wedding Planning Checklist

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12 Months or More Before:

- ___ Announce your Engagement
- ___ Set the Date for your Ceremony
- ___ Select Engagement & Wedding Rings
- ___ Decide on your Wedding Style _____
- ___ Discuss & Set Budget _____
- ___ Buy an Organizer (Binder)
- ___ Select a Wedding Consultant _____
- ___ Book a Site for your Reception
- ___ Visit Clergy & Discuss Ceremony
- ___ Book a site for your Ceremony
- ___ Select Wedding Attendants

- _____

- ___ Select Wedding Dress, Headpiece, Accessories
- ___ Select a Professional Photographer _____
- ___ Select a Professional Videographer _____
- ___ Select Musicians _____
- ___ Select a Professional Florist _____
- ___ Register with a Bridal Registry
- ___ Choose a Professional Caterer _____
- ___ Select a Master of Ceremonies (M.C.) _____

8 to 10 Months Before:

- ___ Establish a Guest List
- ___ Select & Order Attendants gowns
- ___ Get Fabric Samples to match Shoes
- ___ Select & Order Mens' Attire
- ___ Order Wedding Invitations & Stationary
- ___ Make Reception Plans
- ___ Sign All Contracts for Venue of Ceremony & Reception
- ___ Mothers of the Bride & Groom to select their Dresses
- ___ Make Honeymoon Plans & Reservations
- ___ Select Certain Dependable People to Assist
- ___ Decide on Center Pieces & Favors
- ___ Set Date to see Floor Plan for Ceremony & Reception

3 to 6 Months Before:

- ___ Send out Save The Dates
- ___ Set Up Dessert Tasting for Cake
- ___ Ordering Wedding Cake & Dessert
- ___ Order your Limousine or Transportation
- ___ Make Accommodations for Out-of-Town Guests
- ___ Meet with Hair & Make-up Stylist
- ___ Check on regulations for obtaining a Hawaii's Marriage License
- ___ Obtain a Passport for Honeymoon
- ___ Groom's Family to make arrangements for Rehearsal
- ___ Plan Time Line for Day of Event

2 to 3 Months Before:

- ___ Address Wedding Invitations
- ___ Choose Attendants Gifts
- ___ Arrange Special Music Selections
- ___ Plan the Bridal Shower or Bridesmaids Luncheon
- ___ Ask Relatives to assist at the Ceremony & Reception
- ___ Schedule a Trial Appointment with Hair & Make-up Stylist
- ___ Pick Out Jewelery for Wedding Day

1 to 2 Months Before:

- ___ Arrange Final Fitting of Bride's Gown
- ___ Arrange Final Fitting of Bridesmaids' Dresses
- ___ Confirm with Photographer, Musicians, Florist, Caterer, Baker, and Limousine Services
- ___ Select Groom's and Brides Gifts
- ___ Meet with Clergy on Ceremony Details
- ___ Choose Wedding Certificate
- ___ Wedding Ring Pick Up
- ___ Schedule Wedding Rehearsal Date
- ___ Final Guest Count
- ___ Wedding Table Seating Chart
- ___ Wedding Party Program to Entering Reception
- ___ Schedule Nail Appointment

7 Days Before:

- ___ Make a Final with Clergy, Florist, Caterer, Baker,
Musicians & Limousine Services
- ___ Meet with Photographer & Videographer
- ___ Quick Rehearsal
- ___ Make certain Attendants have their Instructions
- ___ Pick Up Wedding Gown
- ___ Pick Up Bridesmaids Attire
- ___ Appointment with Nail Stylist

1 Day Before:

- ___ Provide Ushers/Groomsmen with List of Guests
- ___ Greet Out-Of-Town Guests
- ___ Relax, Breathe and Get a Goodnight sleep

Wedding Day:

- ___ Follow Program Timeline
- ___ Hair & Make-up Stylist
- ___ Allow 3 Hours to Dress & Relax
- ___ Enjoy Special Day!

Wedding Day Checklist for Groom

What to expect on Wedding Day

- ___ *Wake Up & Shower*
- ___ *Get Dressed*
- ___ *Paperwork for License & Rings*
- ___ *Go to Ceremony Site*
- ___ *Take Pictures*
- ___ *Wait for Bride*
- ___ *Get Married*
- ___ *Sign Marriage License*
- ___ *Recessional*
- ___ *Leave Ceremony - Relax*
- ___ *More Pictures*
- ___ *Go to Reception Site*
- ___ *Receiving Line*
- ___ *Dinner*
- ___ *Formal Program*
- ___ *Toasts*
- ___ *Cut Cake*
- ___ *Garter & Bouquet Toss*
- ___ *First Dance*
- ___ *Mingle & Smile (Personal Thank Yous)*
- ___ *Dance (Disco)*
- ___ *Your Wedding Party... Who does what?*

Maid Of Honor

- ♦ *Assists with the Selection of Bridesmaids Dresses*
- ♦ *Help Address Invitations*
- ♦ *Plans a Shower for the Couple*
- ♦ *Plans Bridal Shower or Bachelorette*
- ♦ *Supervises Bridesmaids, Arranges Fittings & Assigns Wedding Day Duties*
- ♦ *Attends Rehearsal Dinner*
- ♦ *Assist Bride with Dressing for the Ceremony*
- ♦ *Holds the Groom's Ring & Bride's Bouquet during Ceremony*
- ♦ *Sign the Wedding Certificate as a Legal Witness*
- ♦ *Stands next to Bride in Receiving Line*
- ♦ *Offers a Toast to the Couple (2 minutes or less)*

Bridesmaids

- ♦ *Helps with Favors & Gifts*
- ♦ *Participate in Bridal Showers & Parties*
- ♦ *Assist Bride with Errands & Invitations*
- ♦ *Attend Rehearsal Dinner*
- ♦ *Stand in Receiving Line & circulate during the Reception*

Best Man

- ♦ *Plans Bachelor Party*
- ♦ *Attends Rehearsal Dinner*
- ♦ *Provides Transportation for Groom to Ceremony*
- ♦ *Helps the Groom Dress*
- ♦ *Holds Clergy Fee & Bride's Ring*
- ♦ *Stands next to Groom in Receiving Line & Sits next to Groom at the Reception*
- ♦ *Offers a Toast to the Couple (2 minutes or less)*
- ♦ *Returns Groom's Tuxedo after the Wedding*

Ushers (Groomsmen)

- ♦ *May Pay for own Wedding Attire*
- ♦ *Helps with Bachelor Party*
- ♦ *Escorts Guests to their Seats*
- ♦ *Seat Mother of the Bride and Mother of the Groom prior to Processional*
- ♦ *Dance with Bridesmaids at the Reception*

Where to obtain Marriage License in Hawaii

Hawaii State Department of Health

- Oahu:*** 1250 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 586-4540
- Maui:*** 54 South High Street Rm. #301
Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793
(808) 984-8200
- Kauai:*** 3040 Umi Street
Lihue, HI 96766
(808) 241-3498
- Hawaii:*** 75 Aupuni St STE 105
Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 974-6006
- Molokai:*** 65 Makaena Place
Kaunakakai, HI 96748
(808) 553-7870
- Lanai:*** 333 6th Street
Lanai City, HI 96763
(808) 565-6919

*Please remember once you've obtained your license you have **30 days** to marry before your license expires and the State will void your license.*

Customs & Traditions

Bridal Veil:

In the ancient Far East, wicked spirits were said to especially attract to women. To protect themselves from demons, women always wore veils. In time, the practice came to symbolize modesty and chastity. In America, the first woman to wear a long veil of white lace was Nellie Custis. She wore the veil to relive the moment when her husband Lawrence Custis, an aide to George Washington, fell in love with her. Lawrence had caught a glimpse of her through lace curtains of an open window.

Throwing Flower Petals:

In times when life depended on bountiful crops, newlyweds were said to be bearers of good fortune. As such, everyone believed that anyone or anything that touched the brides would reap some of this luck and prosperity. Thus, newlyweds were showered with ripe grains of hope ensuring abundant harvest. Today, throwing flower petals or birdseed, instead of rice, continues to symbolize good luck, fertility and abundance.

Unity Candle:

The beautiful tradition of lighting the Unity Candle symbolizes the joining of two people and two families as one. Family members are often included in this special portion of the Wedding Ceremony.

The Bouquet Toss:

Tradition has it that the woman who catches the bouquet will be the next to marry. In the 1800's, the bride would toss several small bouquets, one to each of her bridesmaids. In one of the bouquets, a ring was hidden and the woman who caught that bouquet would be the next to wed. As a part of the bouquet tossing ritual, to be impartial, the bride must turn her back to the crowd of hopefuls. Today, brides choose to go with the traditional bouquet toss and present their bouquet to a friend or relative.

Throwing the Garter:

The garter toss is a British custom once called “flinging the stocking”. Guests invaded the bridal chamber and the women grabbed the Groom’s stockings. Whoever threw the one which landed on the Bride or Groom now would be the next to marry. Today, the Groom removes the Bride’s garter and tosses it over his shoulder to a crowd of unmarried gentlemen.

“Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue”:

An expression of hope that dates back to the age of England’s Queen Victoria, the phrase symbolizes all a bride wishes to bring to her marriage. The love and admiration from her life as a maiden is the “something old”. The hope for prosperity and joy in future is represented by “something new”. Loyalty and the helpfulness of friends is “something borrowed”. The value of faithfulness and consistency associated with the color is “something blue”.

A Thousand Cranes:

Ancient Japanese legend promises that anyone who folds a thousand origami cranes will be granted a wish by the Gods. The duty of making the birds was initially assigned to the father of the bride, who presented the bundle of cranes to the couple during the marriage ceremony. In time, it became the responsibility of the bride as a way to develop her patience and demonstrate her commitment to the marriage. Today, entire families gather to help assemble the birds, offering prayers and blessings as they work to impart even more good fortune on the couple’s future. Modern couples also work together as partners to build their wedding cranes. Along the way, they learn how to communicate, support each other through a challenging task and strengthen their compatibility -- three qualities that are vital for a marriage to thrive.

Chinese Lion Dance:

This colorful and noisy activity begins with hundreds of fireworks set off as an elegant Lion enters to sound off evil spirits and bring in good luck. The Bride and Groom brandish a bamboo pole with a red envelope tied to the end to entice the Lion.

Money Dance:

The vibrant culture of the Philippines incorporates many traditions that honor the bond of marriage. The most popular is the “Pandango”, or the Money Dance. Usually during the first dance, the Bride and Groom are descended upon by a guests, others will all be waiting in a line to give the couple money. Today, the dance has become a rainbow of variations crossing all cultures. By the end of the dance, the Bride and Groom are wrapped in money.