

# Wedding Survival Guide

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## 12 Months Before The Wedding

- Decide on the type of wedding you would like to have (Big, Small, Formal, Casual, Traditional, Non-Traditional)
- Contact your first choice venue, Photographer & DJ/Band to see what dates they have available.
- Choose your wedding date and time.
- Start a folder or system for keeping a record of payments made and due dates. (Google Docs & Google Sheets)
- Research typical costs for your main expenses and work out your budget.
- Book your top choice of vendor, Photographer & DJ/Band.
- Hire a planner and decide how much involvement you want to have or appoint a Master & Mistress of ceremony.
- Select the people you would like in your wedding party.
- Start your guest list.
  - Rank 1 - Must Invite
  - Rank 2 - Should Invite
  - Rank 3 - Not a must but would be nice
- Throw an engagement party & think of color schemes.
- Start Shopping for a wedding dress and tuxes.

## 12 - 9 Months Before The Wedding

- Hire a videographer & officiant, arrange pre-marital counseling.
- Meet caterers for a tasting and select favorite food and drink choices.
- Reserve hotel rooms for your guests.
- Create a wedding website if desired.
- Use one of the Itinerary templates provided to layout a time line.
- Start a fitness plan if desired.

## 9 - 6 Months Before The Wedding

- Purchase wedding invitations
- Delegate responsibilities to wedding party members.
- Start planning the honeymoon and renew passports if needed.
- Shop for dresses for the bridal party, flower girl & mothers of the bride & groom.
- Shop for Wedding bands & determine the final guest list.
- Send save the date card if desired.
- Book a florist and work on centerpieces & bouquets.

## 4 - 6 Months Before The Wedding

- Book the rehearsal dinner venue and plan food that evening.
- Organize cleanup crew, ushers, parking assistance, prayer & babysitters if needed.
- Plan wedding favors & place card designs.
- Arrange rentals like tables, chairs, linens, etc.
- Purchase ceremony items like aisle runners, unity candle, flower girl basket, ring pillow or box etc.
- Select & order the cake and topper.
- Purchase wedding shoes & start dress fittings.
- Schedule hair and makeup designer.
- Select your music & dances.
- Remember to write thank you letters if any gifts start to arrive.

## 3 Months Before The Wedding

- Send out invitations with favors if desired.
- Ask people you want to give a speech if they will prepare something to say.
- Purchase the garter & arrange the rehearsal dinner.
- Send your program and itinerary to your vendors & everyone else that would benefit from it.
- Purchase cake serving utensils, guest book & a card box.

## 2 Months Before The Wedding

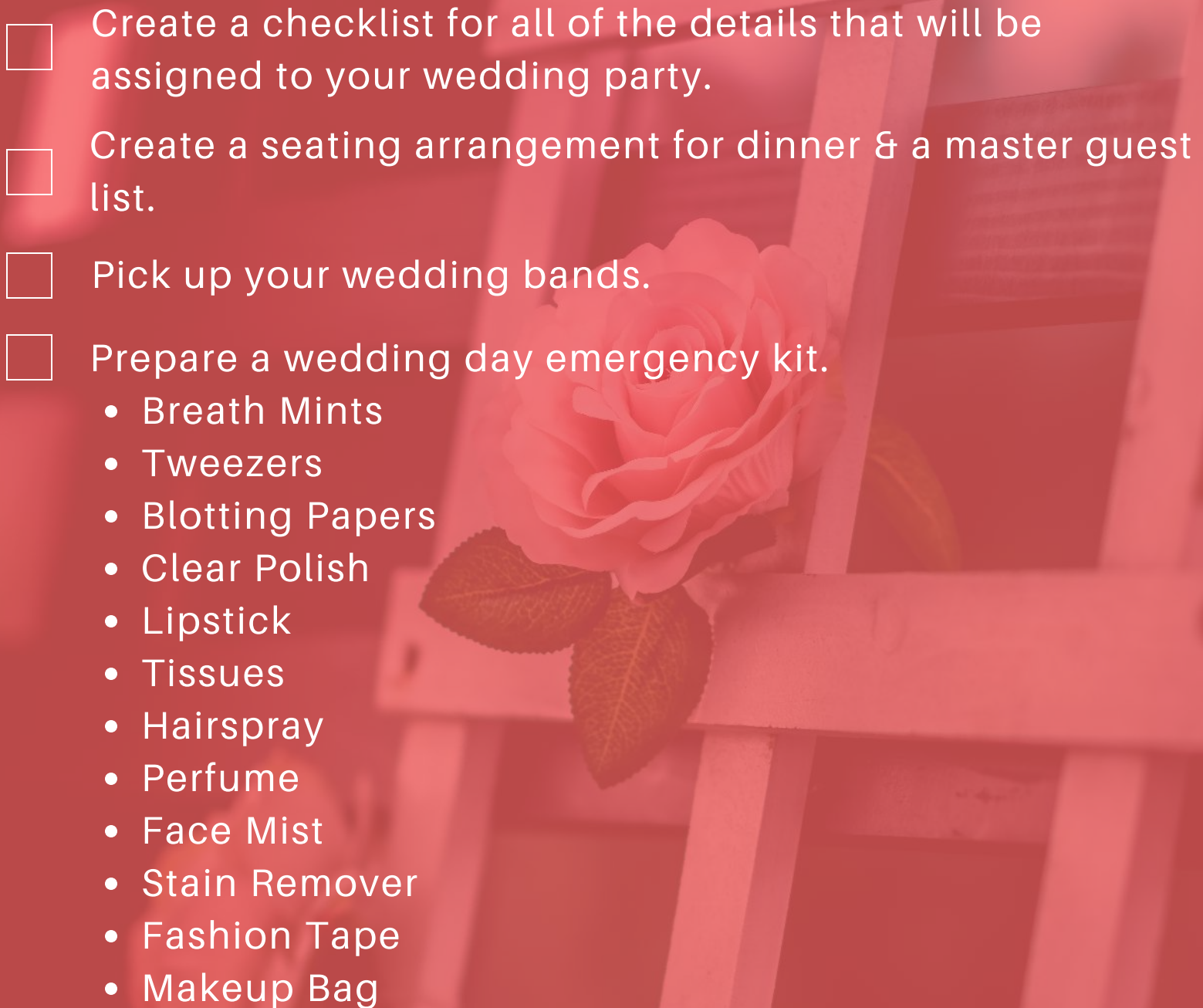
- Touch base with all your vendors including photographer and DJ/Band to make sure you are all set.
- Book a hair & makeup trial.
- Finalize your honeymoon details.
- Purchase a wedding day gift for your fiance.
- Have your bachelorette and bachelor parties.

## 1 Month Before The Wedding

- Enter your rsvp's into your guestbook database & contact the ones that haven't responded yet.
- Acquire your marriage license
- Mail the rehearsal invitations or simply start a Facebook event.
- Meet with your dressmaker for your final fitting.
- Purchase gifts for bridesmaids and groomsmen.
- Write vows and speeches if needed
- Break in your shoes. (*wear them around the house for half hour intervals a few times a week*)

## 1 - 2 Weeks Before The Wedding

- Finalize guest numbers with the caterer and venue if necessary. Food costs could go down if you're paying per plate which is customary in most cases.
- Pick up wedding dress along with bridal party dresses.
- Get your airline tickets and or any documentation that you will need for your honeymoon.
- Write down all of the tasks that will be delegated and give those tasks in writing to those individuals.
- Send out as many final payments as you can. Remember log payments made & amounts remaining. (google sheets)
- Confirm times for hair, makeup & all vendors.
- Create seating charts if desired & finish place cards.
- Get your hair cut & colored.
- Book facials, manicure, pedicure, waxing, and any other esthetics that are required.
- Break in your shoes. (*wear them around the house for half hour intervals a few times a week*)

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- Create a checklist for all of the details that will be assigned to your wedding party.
  - Create a seating arrangement for dinner & a master guest list.
  - Pick up your wedding bands.
  - Prepare a wedding day emergency kit.
    - Breath Mints
    - Tweezers
    - Blotting Papers
    - Clear Polish
    - Lipstick
    - Tissues
    - Hairspray
    - Perfume
    - Face Mist
    - Stain Remover
    - Fashion Tape
    - Makeup Bag

## Week Of The Wedding

- Finalize your day of timeline.
- Contact all service providers to confirm their arrival times.
- Make sure everyone that needs a timeline has their copy.
- Set final payments and gratuities that are needed. A good method for cash is to use envelopes. Write the name of the vendor on the envelope with the amount that will be included with the according amount.

- Time for the rehearsal dinner. Gifts are given to members of the wedding party.

Remember that this is supposed to be a pleasant experience. Try not to over stress yourself, ask for help and even short periods of meditation can help greatly if you are feeling overwhelmed. (Meditation Video)

## Day Before The Wedding

- Get a manicure and pedicure.
- Pick up the tuxes, remember to drink plenty of water.

If you haven't had your rehearsal yet it's ok, many people have this the day before. But now is the time to do this so everyone has a clear understanding of his or her roles. This may also be an opportunity to have help in setting up your venue for the following day if need be.

- Lay out everything you will need in the morning.
- Don't forget your wedding day emergency kit.
- Make sure everyone that needs a timeline has their copy.
- Take some time to relax and go to bed early.

## Day of The Wedding

Wake up, feel amazing and enjoy one of the best days of your life. The time for stress is over, perhaps some butterflies but this is a day for happiness and joy. Don't sweat the small stuff!

## After The Wedding

- Enjoy your honeymoon!
- Send thank you cards to your guests and vendors.
- Dry clean & preserve the wedding dress.
- Complete address and name changes where necessary.
- Meet with the photographer & videographer to finalize your albums & recordings.
- Share all of those great memories with your family & friends!