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My Comprehensive Wedding Checklist

At Least One Year Before the Wedding

- Choose the wedding date
- Decide what type of wedding you desire (small/big, traditional, etc.)
- Determine what religion the service will be performed in, if any
- Choose the time of the wedding and reception
- Choose the location desired for the ceremony
- Choose the location desired for the reception
- Set the wedding budget and decide how the wedding will be financed

10-12 Months Before the Wedding

- Ensure home/renter's insurance covers engagement ring or buy additional jewelry insurance
- Decide if all/part of the vows will be written by bride/groom
- Set a honeymoon budget
- Announce engagement to family and friends
- Put engagement announcement in the local paper

6-10 Months Before the Wedding

- First meeting with minister/officiant
- Begin writing vows
- Choose your best man and ushers and ask if they will accept the position
- Pick out tuxes for the groom and groomsmen/ushers/fathers
- Choose/book desired location for rehearsal dinner
- Make first draft of invite list
- Plan honeymoon and book all lodgings/transportation/event tickets
- Check passports/visas

4-6 Months Before the Wedding

- Hire limo driver or make other arrangements for transportation after reception
- Buy necessary wedding attire accessories (shoes, cufflinks, etc.)
- Pick out and order wedding bands
- Decide if groom's cake is desired; if so, choose flavor and style and inform baker
- Make second draft of invite list
- Get measurements from groom/ushers/fathers/groomsmen for tuxedos

3-4 Months Before the Wedding

- Decide on living arrangement once married

2-4 Months Before the Wedding

- Determine wedding band inscriptions if applicable
- Determine seating arrangement at rehearsal dinner with groom's mother if desired
- Choose song for mother/groom dance
- Finalize vows and memorize (if necessary)
- Buy gifts for groomsmen, parents, fiancée, ushers
- Finalize guest list
- Get addresses of all people on invite list
- Ask mom if she wants rehearsal dinner invitations and/or place cards matching invitations
- Set date with fiancée to get marriage license (check restrictions on how long it's valid prior to wedding)
- Get blood tests/physicals for marriage certificate if required
- Get any immunizations you will need for the honeymoon

2 Months Before the Wedding

- Schedule hair appointment
- Book rooms for out-of-town attendants at hotel
- Choose one person to whom the groomsmen can return their tuxes, and have that person return the tuxes to the rental place if desired
- Determine who will take the groom's tuxedo back to the rental place
- Buy honeymoon clothes and going away outfit if necessary
- Buy/decide on rehearsal/rehearsal dinner outfit
- Get wedding band inscribed
- Call to inform all people who need to be at rehearsal
- Obtain marriage certificate
- Last meeting with minister/officiant
- Determine where groom and attendants will get dressed (at hotel or ceremony site?)
- Buy wrapping paper for attendant, etc. gifts
- Ensure formal-wear shop has all tuxedo measurements

1 Month Before the Wedding

- Box and wrap all gifts for bride/groomsmen/ushers/etc.
- Ensure groom's mom has addressed/mailed rehearsal dinner invitations if his parents are hosting it
- Order flower arrangements for rehearsal dinner tables if desired
- Pick up wedding band
- Ensure home/renter's insurance covers wedding bands or buy additional jewelry insurance
- Confirm honeymoon reservations
- Open joint checking and savings accounts

- Change beneficiary to fiancée for will and life insurance policy
- Inform car/home/renter's insurance of marriage (discounted rates may apply)

2 Weeks Before the Wedding

- Meet with rehearsal dinner caterers for final details
- Confirm hotel reservations for wedding night
- Confirm hotel reservations for attendants
- Determine personal wedding morning itinerary (time to wake up, time to leave for to the wedding venue, etc.)
- Hair appointment (to avoid that freshly-cut look in the wedding pictures)
- Move belongings to new home

1 Week Before the Wedding

- Pack for honeymoon
- Get traveler's checks for honeymoon; exchange money to foreign currency now if desired
- Remind attendants about rehearsal time
- Give the clergyman's fee to the best man (if it will be paid on the day of the ceremony, otherwise drop it off in advance)
- Remind fathers/ushers/groomsmen to pick up tuxedos on the day before the wedding
- Ensure delivery of flower arrangements for wedding rehearsal dinner have been made

1 Day Before the Wedding

- Pick up tux
- Rehearsal and rehearsal dinner

The Morning of the Wedding

- Give the groom's wedding band to the Maid of Honor and bride's wedding band to the Best Man prior to ceremony

Relax and let it all sink in!!