

The Twelve Month Bridal Countdown

You have finally agreed to marry the man of your dreams. Congratulations!

What is the next step in planning your future?

Planning the perfect wedding day of course.

It is never too early to start planning. Let's get to work and start your twelve month bridal countdown.

If you follow Your Wedding Wardrobe's wedding checklist it will help you organize and tick off all the things that need to be done this in turn will keep the stress usually associated with planning a wedding to a minimum.

So where do we start.

12 MONTHS TO GO AND COUNTING

You must tell everyone! This will allow them to make tentative plans to put you on their calendar for the year ahead. Unless of course you are planning on having a secret engagement, this is the perfect time to tell anyone and everyone about your good news. Spread the good news tell your close family members and friends over the phone and internet as soon as you like.

Workout a Budget

This is really important - you must workout a wedding day budget. Whether you want your big day to cost a couple thousand dollars or ten thousand dollars is up to you.

Your Wedding Wardrobe has designed a Wedding Budget Template to help you will find it in the Appendices at the end of this E book.

When you have inserted all of the costs - add 10 to 20% on top of the total figure to allow for any unexpected increased costs. Your budget must be flexible and factoring this small adjustment will help you keep within your budget.

Please prepare a wedding budget before planning anything else.

Choose the Church

Consider choosing the church where you would like to be married. Many churches are booked for weddings some months in advance. If pre-marital counseling is offered it may need to be completed prior to the chosen wedding date. Pre-marital counseling can take anywhere from six weeks to six months to complete.

Links that may assist you in your search for a church follow:

<http://www.weddingsnw.com/churches.htm>
<http://www.weddingvic.com.au/churches.htm>
<http://www.weddingsa.com/churches.htm>
<http://www.weddingwa.com/churches.htm>
<http://www.weddingqld.com/churches.htm>
<http://www.churchsearch.org.au/>

Civil Ceremony

If you have chosen to have a civil ceremony you will need to choose a marriage celebrant and a ceremony venue.

To get you started browse the links below.

<http://www.celebrantsonline.com.au/>
<http://www.findamarriagecelebrant.com/>
<http://www.civilcelebrants.com.au/>
<http://www.celebrante.com.au/celebrante/homepage>

You may also like to take a look at the many wedding directories that are available on the internet for wedding ceremony venues.

Set the wedding date

Don't stress too much about finding a location this month but do have some dates in mind.

Plan to order your Save the Date cards next month.

Wedding Guests

Make a guest list. It is a good idea to have a figure in your mind before making a guest list as it may need to be pruned to fit in with your wedding budget.

It is a good idea to get input from both sets of parents before you finalize your guest list.

To help Your Wedding Wardrobe has designed a Guest List Template you will find it in the Appendices at the end of this E-book.

Wedding Rings

Choose your wedding rings. Order and purchase outright or pay a deposit and place on lay-by. Please make a note in your calendar when the rings need to be picked up.

ELEVEN MONTHS TO GO AND COUNTING

Save the Date cards

Now is the time to order or make your Save the Date cards.

Health & Fitness

If you are thinking about starting a healthy eating and exercise plan start it now. T

Plan to eat a good balanced diet and exercise regularly. If you need further guidance seek out a good health and fitness professional.

Ask your beautician to prepare a skin care routine for you and make sure that your hair is kept in top condition. Your hair stylist or hairdresser can help with a hair care routine.

Wedding Theme

Now is the time to choose a theme and colours for your wedding.

It is a good idea to purchase a binder to hold all of your clippings from magazines, dress material samples, and other information pertaining to your wedding.

Search the internet for wedding dress galleries, wedding favors, wedding hairstyles and wedding accessories. Don't forget to check out your local library you are sure to find some great books and DVDs on a number of wedding topics.

Join a wedding forum there are many available on the internet where you can exchange ideas or chat with other brides-to-be.

Wedding Reception

Start the search for the perfect wedding location or reception venue. Compile a list of reception venues to view and make a booking.

The Honeymoon

Consider some honeymoon destinations. Visit a travel agent to get some ideas and brochures.

<http://www.honeymoontravel.com.au/>

<http://www.tropicalhoneymoons.com.au/>

<http://www.weddingdestinations.com.au/>

<http://www.holidaysforcouples.com.au/>

<http://www.rentayacht.com.au/honeypackage.html>http://www.yourweddingwardrobe.com.au/main/page_tips_honeymoon_travel_tips.html

Wedding Planner

Hire a wedding planner. Look for wedding planners with experience and references. Your wedding planner should be focused on you and your dream wedding. Ask lots of questions and make sure you get a fully itemized written quote detailing all the services provided.

Or you may choose the option of using one of the popular online wedding planning software programs that are available.

<http://www.marziplanner.com.au/freetrial.aspx>

Award Winning **Wedding** Management System Designed For Aussie Brides

<http://www.onlineweddingboutique.com.au/>

Plan your ultimate stress free **wedding**. Join now. It's free!

<https://www.pinkfrosting.com.au/>

<https://www.weddingstar.com.au/>

My Style Wedding Planning Software fabulous 3D realistic visual wedding planning software.

TEN MONTHS TO GO AND COUNTING

- Finalize the wedding location booking.
- Finalize the wedding reception booking.
- Finalize the honeymoon destination.

Your wedding may still seem to be many months away, but it will be here before you know it.

If you finalize the wedding location, reception and honeymoon bookings now it will alleviate stress later on and it can sometimes save you money.

Send out those Save the Date cards.

Talk to and look at caterers, florists, photographers, videographers, disk jockeys and musicians.

You do not have to hire someone this month just become aware of the choices that are available.

NINE MONTHS TO GO AND COUNTING

The Wedding Dress

Start looking for your wedding dress. Aim for only one or two shops in a weekend. You do not want to wear yourself out to the point where every wedding dress looks the same.

To make wedding dress shopping special, take a special friend or relative with you.

If you plan to drop a dress size for your wedding - do not be tempted to buy a gown smaller than you are now. Many wedding dresses can be altered to fit you up to three sizes down by an experienced seamstress. But a wedding dress that is too small cannot be altered to fit you.

Try on a range of styles and add accessories if available in the store for a complete picture. Try not to have a fixed style in mind. Know your measurements and be guided by the wedding professional who is assisting you. Don't be pressured into buying a wedding dress that you are not completely sure is your 'dream dress'.

If you are on a budget check out the many stunning and exquisite pre-owned wedding dresses that are available on websites such as Your Wedding Wardrobe.

Read more tips and advice on choosing the perfect wedding dress.

http://www.yourweddingwardrobe.com.au/main/page_tips_the_perfect_wedding_dress.html

http://www.yourweddingwardrobe.com.au/main/page_tips_wedding_dress_necklines.html

http://www.yourweddingwardrobe.com.au/main/page_tips_wedding_dress_fabric.html

http://www.yourweddingwardrobe.com.au/main/page_tips_wedding_dress_colour.html

http://www.yourweddingwardrobe.com.au/main/page_tips_wedding_dress_styles.html

After talking to several caterers, florists, photographers, videographers, disk jockeys, and musicians, narrow down your list down to a few in each category.

Look for the most professional in each field that has both experience and prices that fit within your budget.

You may have already picked your bridesmaid and groomsmen but if you haven't now is the time to do it.

Remember the number of bridesmaids and groomsmen is up to you and your fiancé. Do not let anyone let you feel guilty about who you choose for your bridal party. This is your wedding day and you deserve to have it the way you want.

Don't forget the other members of your wedding party - flower girls, ring bearers and ushers.

EIGHT MONTHS TO GO AND COUNTING

Gift Registry

If you have not already thought about a gift registry do it now.

Choose one or two stores and vary the price of gifts to cater to all budgets.

You also have the option of registering for gift cards.

A new concept for you to try is online gift registers. This can save you time.

<http://www.notanothertoast.com.au>

<http://www.diygiftregistry.com.au>

<http://www.weddinglistcompany.com.au>

Wedding Day Website

Think about setting up a website for your wedding day celebration. It is great fun and usually can be done for free or at a minimal cost. It is a great way to share your wedding day with friends and family.

<http://www.weddingco.com.au/>

<http://www.wedquarters.com/>

<http://www.ewedding.com/>

If you have not found your dream wedding dress yet, this is the month to find one.

If you do have your wedding dress, now is the time to plan any alterations and make any bookings with a dressmaker or seamstress.

The Bridesmaids

Consider the type of dresses that you would like for your bridesmaids. Allow your bridesmaids to have input. Your bridesmaids may choose dresses in your desired colour but in different styles. It is not necessary to have dresses that match exactly.

<http://www.bridesmaid.com/>

Hairstyles

Choose a hairstyle that you like and consult your hair stylist about achieving the look that you desire. Book your pre wedding trial for at least a couple of months before your wedding.

http://www.yourweddingwardrobe.com.au/main/page_tips_wedding_hairstyles_demo.html

Makeup

Book your makeup consultant and book a pre wedding trial a couple of months before your wedding.

Hire Wedding Professionals

If you have not hired any of your wedding professional potentials. Do it now!

Discuss with them the proposed dates and times. Outline your requirements exactly. Finalize any contracts and quotations that you have received. Pay any deposits required.

The Wedding Cake

If your catering package does not include a wedding cake. Take some time out to go cake shopping.

Choose your wedding cake taking into account design, taste and cost. Confirm with the baker the specific time, date and place where the wedding cake should be delivered. For inspiration take a look at <http://weddingcakecreations.com/>

SEVEN MONTHS TO GO AND COUNTING

Start to look at the different wedding invitation styles that are available. There are so many to choose from. If you want to get your wedding invitations custom made, talk to a designer and arrange samples. Samples will give you a better idea of what the finished product will look like.

If you are changing your last name, start filing the important papers to do so. This would include getting your passport changed if you are going out of the country for your honeymoon.

It may be helpful to purchase a change-of-name kit such as those available from <http://www.newlywed.com.au>

Taste test different foods from your caterer and finalize the menu and drink list.

SIX MONTHS TO GO AND COUNTING

Order your invitations and any other paper stuff (such as menus, table numbers, programs, and thank you cards).

Order your wedding favors. If they need assembly, begin to do that as soon as they arrive. If they are perishable, order them now, and have them delivered a week before the wedding.

Buy the wedding party gifts. Let everyone know they are appreciated.

Tell your local newspaper of you and your fiancé's engagement.

Have your groom and his groomsmen get fitted for their tuxedos and ready to rent or purchase a week before the wedding.

FIVE MONTHS TO GO AND COUNTING

Order transportation for the wedding party. Give the driver the date, time, and directions

Also, it is wise to get his mobile phone number in case he is late. If he is hesitant about this, assure him you will only call if he is more than ten minutes late.

If desired, get your hair cut and dyed. Now is the time to try out a new color or cut. This way you can grow it out or fix it before the wedding.

FOUR MONTHS TO GO AND COUNTING

Buy all wedding accessories. You will need shoes, a few pairs of panty hose or stockings, a supportive bra or special lingerie that enhances the style of your wedding dress, a veil, and jewelry.

Get your marriage license.

THREE MONTHS TO GO AND COUNTING

Make or go to an appointment with your hair and make up stylists.

http://www.yourweddingwardrobe.com.au/main/page_tips_wedding_hairstyles_demo.html

Get a facial. Now is the time to start prepping your face. Last minute facials can result in last minute breakouts.

Discuss with the florists flower options and colors. They will be able to provide you plenty of examples.

TWO MONTHS TO GO AND COUNTING

Start writing your vows if you are writing your own.

<http://www.myweddingvows.com/>

Send out invitations. Keep track of the response cards that come back.

Have everyone, including yourself, try on their wedding apparel to ensure it all fits. Whatever does not fit needs to be altered.

Make sure your father has a suit or tuxedo. Also make sure your mother has a dress.

Finalize florists plans. You will need flowers for centerpieces, flower petals for the flower girl, and bouquets for yourself and all of your bridesmaids. You may want to get your maid of honor and mother-in-law-to-be a small bouquet also. The groomsmen will all need boutonnières.

Get another facial. Book one for your fiancé too if he is looking a little tired.

If desired get a hair trim to freshen your look.

ONE MONTH TO GO AND COUNTING

Get waxed early in the month and arrange another facial.

Buy and pack for your honeymoon. Check what the typical weather will be next month and pack accordingly. Confirm all hotel reservations, car rentals, and flights.

Have bridal party try everything on again. This time, try on your wedding dress with all the accessories. Make sure your dress fits correctly with all the lingerie and accessories. Practice walking in your wedding shoes.

Make reservations to have a wedding rehearsal a few days before your wedding. Also make reservations for the rehearsal dinner. Let your wedding party know exact dates, times, and directions.

If you are traveling out of the country, arrange your travellers cheques and currency.

Keep in touch with your celebrant, minister, priest, musician, disk jockey, caterers, florist, photographer, videographer and other professionals. Make sure everyone is on schedule and will be able to do their job on the day of the wedding.

Advise the caterers the final guest count.

Make a seating chart.

Have bachelorette and bachelor parties.

ONE WEEK UNTIL THE WEDDING

Have your wedding dress and your bridesmaid's dresses steamed and cleaned if necessary.

Arrange manicures and pedicures for yourself and your bridal party.

Pack an emergency kit for one of your bridesmaids. Go to [Your Wedding Wardrobe Blog](#) for tips on what to put in an emergency kit. You can never be too prepared.

Indulge yourself and have a relaxing massage and body scrub.

Meet with your wedding photographer and advise him/her of the location for your pictures. Also, discuss poses at this time. It is best to make a list of poses for your photographer.

Here are some suggestions:

- Bride getting ready
- Dress hung up with accessories
- Bride looking at herself in the mirror with wedding dress on
- Bridesmaids getting ready
- Groom getting ready
- The wedding party walking down the aisle
- The bride walking down the aisle
- The father unveiling the bride
- Bride and groom at the altar together
- Exchanging the rings
- Lighting the unity candle
- First kiss
- Hand over hand, rings showing
- The new couple walking out together

- Couple getting in transportation
- First dance
- Father and daughter dance
- Mother and son dance
- Bride and her bridal party
- Bride with flower girl and ring bearer
- Bride with mother and mother-in-law
- Groom with groomsmen
- Groom with father and father-in-law
- The whole wedding party
- Several romantic shots of bride and groom
- The decorations and food
- Cutting the cake
- The toasts

At the end of these twelve months, you should have a beautiful and fun wedding. Remember that this is your special day. The most important thing to do is relax and enjoy yourself.

If there are still a lot of tasks to complete before the wedding don't be afraid to ask for help from your family, bridesmaids and bridal party. Go with the flow and have a wonderful wedding day.

Trish Loader
Your Wedding Wardrobe
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APPENDICES

YWW Budget Planner
YWW Guest List Planner

View and download at:

http://www.yourweddingwardrobe.com.au/main/page_templates.html