

WEDDING TIMELINE

- 6 Months or More Ahead**
- Submit engagement announcement on BlackHillsBride.com
 - Take engagement photos
 - Think about the style of wedding you want—formal or informal, big or small—and the season it will take place
 - Set budget
 - Hire wedding coordinator, if desired
 - Compile guest list, and organize addresses
 - Finalize wedding date and time
 - Choose color, theme, and size of wedding
 - Reserve ceremony and reception sites
 - Choose attendants
 - Order dress and accessories, including veil and shoes
 - Book officiant
 - Book caterer
 - Book florist
 - Book music for ceremony and reception
 - Book photographer and videographer
 - Meet with clergy or officiant for pre-marital counseling requirements and begin classes
 - Arrange the transportation for the wedding day
 - Discuss honeymoon, apply for passport if needed
 - Send save-the-dates, if using

- 4 to 6 Months Ahead**
- Reserve rental equipment, such as tables, chairs and tents
 - Order stationery, including invitations, and thank you notes
 - Register for gifts
 - Purchase wedding rings and arrange engraving, if needed
 - Purchase or reserve groom's attire
 - Choose attendants' attire
 - Help mothers choose their dresses.
 - Book hair, nail and makeup appointments
 - Order wedding cake
 - Choose favors
 - Book a room for wedding night
 - Reserve accommodations for out-of-town guests
 - Sign up for dance lessons

- 2 to 4 Months Ahead**
- Select songs for ceremony, dinner and dances
 - Finalize details with florist, DJ, photographer, caterer
 - Finalize menu with caterer
 - Discuss service with officiant
 - Choose readings for ceremony
 - Try out makeup and hair style
 - Schedule a session with your videographer to film video for the rehearsal dinner/reception
 - Mail invitations

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NOTES

1 to 2 Months Ahead

- Buy guest book, unity candle, toasting glasses, cake knife and server, flower girl/ring bearer accessories
- Confirm ceremony details
- Prepare printed program for ceremony
- Schedule rehearsal time and rehearsal dinner
- Invite wedding party and guests to rehearsal dinner
- Complete documents for legal name change, change of address
- Obtain marriage license, and request certified copies
- Pick up rings and check engraving
- Confirm details with the florist, caterer, entertainers, and officiant
- Buy gifts for attendants, flower girl, ring bearer, fiancé, parents

2 Weeks Ahead

- Have final dress fitting with shoes, accessories, and lingerie
- Have fittings for tuxedos and attendants' dresses
- Submit list of must-take shots to photographer and videographer
- Follow up on missing RSVPs
- Arrange seating chart and place cards
- Create wedding day schedule; share with wedding party and vendors
- Notify caterer of final guest count
- Find out where your guests will be staying, if you plan to deliver welcome bags to their rooms

1 Week Ahead

- Pick up dress
- Pick up the rings
- Write rehearsal dinner and wedding toasts
- Finalize seating plan
- Get manicure and pedicure
- Pack for honeymoon
- Write thank you notes as you receive gifts
- Verify transportation to and from ceremony

Day Before

- Deliver out-of-town guest gift baskets to hotel
- Attend ceremony rehearsal
- Hold rehearsal dinner and give gifts to wedding party
- Prepare tip envelopes and arrange for someone to distribute them

Wedding Day

- Eat breakfast
- Get hair and makeup done
- Get dressed
- Relax and enjoy the day
- Give your vows to your Maid of Honor
- Exchange a note/gift with your groom

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