

# timeline

## 6 or more months ahead

- Submit engagement announcement on [BlackHillsBride.com](http://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, if appropriate
- Arrange transportation for the wedding day
- Book honeymoon, apply for passport if needed
- Send save-the-dates, if using
- Set up honeymoon registry

- Register for gifts/honeymoon
- 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

## 4 to 6 months ahead

- Reserve rental equipment, such as tables, chairs and tents
- Order stationery, including invitations and thank-you notes

notes

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## 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 hairstyle
- Schedule a session with your videographer to film video for the rehearsal dinner/reception
- Mail invitations
- Finalize honeymoon details

## 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 change of legal name and address, if needed
- 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(e), 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 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

notes

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