



## **Wedding Planner**

### **Before the Wedding Plans**

#### **Creative Shower Games**

-*Pin the boutonniere on the groom*- using a blow-up photograph of the groom, guests are blindfolded and asked to pin paper flower as close as possible to his left lapel.

-*Bridal Jeopardy*- the hostess compiles a series of trivia questions relating to the bride and groom, then asks the guests the phrase (e.g., answer, "The Canoe capsized."  
Question: What happened on Bob and Susan's first date?)

-*Wedding Charades*- the hostess passes out squares of paper on which wedding related phrase or superstitions are printed (e.g., "happy is the bride then sun shines on") Guest are divided into two teams, and take turns acting out a phrase.

-*Bridal Mad Gabs*- the hostess writes, in advance, a humorous story about the couple, leaving out key words. She asks the guests to call out the needed nouns, adjectives and adverbs, she reads the story aloud, plugging in the words they have suggested. The results may be hilarious.

#### **Why Have A Wedding Party?**

-You'll have people to share in the excitement and planning.

-You'll have help when shopping, addressing, invitations, etc.

-You'll have help on the wedding day with errands changing, dealing with the caterer.

-Close friends, relatives, might be hurt if they are left out.

#### **Guest of Honour tips**

-Urge your mothers, sisters, aunts, not to co-host your shower. It shouldn't seem like your family is asking for gifts.

-Ask your maids not to plan the shower no closer than two weeks before the wedding.

-Urge friends to group together to co-host pre wedding parties. Too many activities will wear everyone out

-Urge friends not to invite guest to showers who will not be invited to the wedding. The shower's purpose is to shower the bride with gifts and make the guests feel a part of the wedding related festivities.



-Have your groom ask his best friend not to schedule the bachelor party during the week before the wedding. If the groom is arriving from a distance, ask the ushers not to schedule it the night before the wedding.

-Don't put the same friends on every guest list. Too many parties may make them feel pinched for time and money

-Reserve the last week or so before the wedding for private time for yourself and the groom

-Express your appreciation afterwards to your hosts with notes of thanks and flowers.

### **Documents Required for Marriage License**

- Birth Certificate
- Proof of Citizenship
- Identification
- Parental consent if underage
- Death certificate if widowed
- Divorce decree if divorced
- Blood test results if required.

### **Name Change Steps**

*If one or both of you will be changing your name after marriage, update your listings with:*

- Government agencies
- Social Insurance Card
- Drivers Licence
- Car registration
- Telephone Company
- Leases
- Deeds
- Property Titles
- Passports
- Wills
- Stock Certificates
- Employee ID cards
- School ID cards
- Magazine subscriptions
- Credit cards
- Employers

### **The Brides Wedding Schedule**

**9- 12 months before the wedding**



- Announce your engagement
- Decide on the type of wedding. How big? How Formal?
- Set a tentative Budget
- Choose the date and time of ceremony and reception
- Select the locations and make reservations
- Make an appointment with the person who will perform the ceremony
- Plan a guest list with names and addresses
- Shop for your wedding rings
- Shop for your dress and accessories
- Pick the colours for the ceremony and receptions
- Choose your attendants, their dresses and accessories
- Select photographer, entertainment, transportation, and caterer
- Plan your honeymoon

### **6-9 Months before the wedding**

- Register your gift preferences with local bridal registries
- Choose a florist; consult with florist on floral needs and preferences.

### **3-6 Months before the wedding**

- Order invitations and personal stationary
- Keep a record of all gifts received
- Help Mothers select there dresses
- Check that all bridal attire has been ordered
- Shop for your trousseau
- Choose the baker for the wedding cake and grooms cake

### **2-3 Months before the wedding**

- Start addressing the wedding invitations
- Shop for such wedding accessories as toasting goblets, ring pillow and garter
- Confirm all ceremony and reception reservations
- Arrange for the wedding rehearsal
- Ask friends to help at the reception with the guest book or gifts
- Confirm honeymoon plans; get passport or visa if needed
- Confirm flower orders with florist

### **One month before the wedding**

- Mail the Invitations
- Provide maps for out of town guests
- Have the final fitting on your wedding attire
- Have your portrait taken; send announcements to the newspaper
- Choose gifts for attendants
- Arrange lodging for out of town guests



- Purchase wedding album, guest book
- Select the grooms wedding gift
- Apply for marriage licence with fiancé and witness.

### **The week of your wedding**

- Give the final estimate of the number of guests to your caterer
- Check all final details: Baker, florist, photographer, and entertainment
- Have your bridesmaid luncheon,; present bridesmaid's gifts
- Pack for your honeymoon

### **The Day of your wedding**

- Have your hairdresser style your hair
- Begin dressing one and a half hours before the ceremony
- Parents of the groom should be seated five minutes before the ceremony
- The brides mother should be seated immediately before the processions and before the aisle runner is rolled
- Relax. And enjoy your special day

### **After the honeymoon**

- Finish thank you notes
- If you are taking your husbands name, change drivers license, social insurance number, bank account and credit cards

### **The grooms Wedding Schedule**

#### **9-12 Months before the wedding**

- Buy the engagement ring, and arrange for a special presentation
- Discuss the wedding date and budget with your fiancée
- Choose your best man and ushers
- Select your wedding rings together
- Plan the honeymoon
- Help with the guest list

#### **6-9 Month before the wedding**

- Join your fiancée as she registers your gift preferences
- Together with your fiancée, select formal wear for you and your groomsmen.

#### **3-6 Months before the wedding**

- Personalize the honeymoon plans; get a passport or a visa if needed.

#### **2-3 months before the wedding**

- Start addressing your share of the wedding invitations



- Reserve your wedding attire
- Plan and make reservations for the rehearsal dinner (the grooms family usually hosts this event)
- Meet with the florist. (The groom traditionally pays for the bride's bouquet, corsages and boutonnieres.)

### **6-8 Weeks before the wedding**

- Choose gifts for groomsmen
- Purchase a wedding gift for you bride
- Purchase marriage licence with Fiancée and a witness
- Adjust insurance policies to reflect new Martial Status
- Pick up wedding rings

### **2 Weeks before the wedding**

- Check on honeymoon reservations and tickets
- Purchase travellers checks if needed
- Arrange to move belongings into your new home (after you return from your honeymoon)

### **1 Week Before the wedding**

- Present groomsmen's gifts at Rehearsal dinner

### **The Day of the Wedding**

- Give wedding rings to the best man
- Be sure travel tickets are with your change of clothes
- Be sure both of you sign the wedding certificate and put it in a safe place before leaving for your honeymoon
- Relax...and enjoy the celebration.

### **Just Between the both of you**

Selecting the Rings:

- Shopping together for engagement and wedding rings assures that both of you will be pleased with the choices
- Engagement rings- vary widely in style, design, colour, shape and stone selection
- Wedding bands- may be chosen to match the engagement ring or to be worn alone
- Engraving- personalizes these keepsakes. Inscribe the couple's initials and their wedding date or a phrase.

### **The "4 C's" of Diamond Selection**



- Cut*- the shape of the stone. The cut enables the diamond to reflect light, creating the brilliant sparkle.
- Colour*- rated on the letter scale, from D (absolutely colourless) to Z (yellow), most contain yellow or brown traces; clear white is mostly costly. This rating is not to be confused with the costly, much sought-after coloured diamonds.
- Clarity*- freedom from flaws (inner cracks, bubbles, specks, etc. known as inclusions). Flawless is rated "F1", "I3" has visible imperfections.
- Carat*- Weight- measured in carats; one carat is divided into 100 "points". For example, a diamond of 75 pounds weighs .75 carats. Excellent quality can be found in diamonds of all sizes.

### **Stone Shapes**

- Marquise*-oblong with pointed ends
- Pear shaped*- round on one end, pointed on the other
- Heart-shaped*-romantic variation
- Round/brilliant*- rational cut (58 facets reflect the most light)
- Oval*- round adaptation (same carat weights as round stone, but appears larger.)
- Emerald cut*- rectangular with "steps" on sides, corners.

### **Engagement Checklist**

- Shop for a ring
- Tell your family
- Tell your boss/co-workers
- Send newspaper engagement announcement
- Ask friends, family members to be attendants
- Have an engagement portrait taken
- Register for china, crystal, silver, and other gifts.

### **Engagement gift suggestions**

- Engagement rings
- Wedding rings
- Wristwatch
- Pocket watch
- Pearls
- Gold Bracelet
- Necklace
- Locket
- Cuff links
- Jewellery box
- Money clip
- Leather-bound edition of a favourite book
- Two champagne flutes



## **Selecting Your Invitations**

### **Ordering Invitations**

*Before you visit your stationer, you should know:*

- If the groom's parents names will be on the invitations.
- Wedding day, date, and time
- Name and address of ceremony and reception sites
- How many invitations you'll need (count number of couples not number of guests)
- Whether all guests are invited to both ceremony and reception

### **Stationary Budget Tips:**

*Prices will vary greatly, based on the order you place, note the following:*

- Coloured paper or parchment costs more than white or ivory paper
- Sheets with printed or embossed designs are more costly than plain
- Coloured inks, a photograph or an illustration will increase the cost
- Enclosure cards will increase the printing order coast and the postage for each invitation.

### **Mailing Invitations**

- Weight a sample assembled invitation to gauge correct postage. Enclosures may require extra postage (the last problem you want: all invitations are lost, or returned, due to insufficient postage)
- Mail invitations six weeks before the wedding (eight weeks before if the wedding falls on a holiday or long weekend, or if you are inviting out of town guests).
- Expect regrets – on average, about 25 percent of those you invite will not be able to attend.
- It's acceptable for guests to receive invitations up to two weeks before the wedding.

### **Invitation Response Tips**

*Here are some ways to keep track of RSVP's.*

- Index cards- Create an alphabetical file with each couples family's information on 3x5 cards. Later, you can reorganize and group cards by tables.
- Note books- reserve a page for each couples family's information.
- Ledgers/planners- many wedding planners have pages set aside for guest responses.



- Computer- programs are now available to keep track of all planning information- from florists and bakers to guests.

Who gets Announcements?

- Business associates
- Guests invited by phone
- Friends and relatives not receiving invitations

Invitations Do's and Don'ts

- Do let hosts know if an unexpected complication (e.g., an illness or out of country business trip) will make it impossible to attend the wedding as planned. Write, telegraph, regrets to the hostess with an explanation as soon as possible.
- Don't assume that children and others who live with you are invited unless their names appear on the inside envelope. If the host address the invitation "Miss Marx", then they expect her alone to attend the wedding- not every member of her household.
- Do bring young children if they are invited, but only if you or someone else can watch them closely during the ceremony and reception. Ask the host if a baby-sitter will be present. Otherwise make arrangements to leave them at home.
- Don't ask the bride if you can bring a date or special friend along to a wedding unless the bride has requested a specific name or address on the invitation list. Space might be tight and your request could put the bride in an awkward position.

### **The first of many decisions**

Wedding consultant

Do you wish to have one? If so, the person you hire should:

- Listen to you and your fiancée's ideas; make suggestions, research your options.
- Come up with an overall wedding plan that meets your tastes and budget.
- Make appointments with wedding service providers.
- Visit the bridal salon and the wedding gift registry with you
- handle the selection of bridesmaid's dresses, invitations, flowers, and caterer.
- Make sure the plan is carried out smoothly by staying in touch with the businesses and vendors.
- Deal with any emergencies that occur. An experienced consultant is well versed in wedding etiquette and has directed many weddings.

Wedding Decisions

- Religious vs. civil ceremony
- Seated meal vs. buffet
- Large guest list vs. reception with all the trimming
- Evening vs. daytime



- Weekend vs. weekday

#### Degrees of wedding formality

- Very formal
- Formal
- Semiformal
- Informal

#### Creative Wedding sites

- Yacht
- Sports arenas
- Barn
- Restaurants
- Mansion
- Private schools
- Carnival
- Theatre
- Underwater
- Fire station
- Skydiving
- Hot air balloon
- Ski slope
- Beach
- Tennis court
- Roller rink
- Ice skating rink

#### Outdoor site considerations

- Accessibility
- Parking space
- Privacy
- Presence of traffic
- Permits, fee's
- Inclement weather (rent a tent, have an alternative site)

#### Seating Etiquette

- The groom designates one groomsmen as head usher to supervise special seating arrangements
- If the bride or groom has divorced parents, one parent may be seated in the first row, one in the third row.
- If there are elderly guests, they'll be seated up front



- If there are guests in wheelchairs or on crutches, they'll be seated at the front or end of pews, near family or friends.
- If the bride and groom do not each have brothers in the wedding party to seat their respective mothers, the head usher will seat them.

## **Wedding Photographs**

### Wedding Portrait trends

- Portraits of bride and groom- most newspapers now print engagement and wedding photos of couples. Let photographer know if the groom will join you; groom should wear his wedding outfit too.
- Colour photos in newspapers- some papers can print colour portraits
- Lifestyle shoots- many couples are spending an afternoon with a photographer, posing on the beach, riding horses, playing golf.
- Lifestyle photos displayed at the wedding- some couples have enlargements made of their lifestyle shoot, then display a few on easels near the cake table.
- Lifestyle photos in wedding albums- today; albums become "this-is-your-life" reviews. Many couples begin and end their albums with shots from their lifestyles shoot.

### Photo Secrets

- Meet with your photographer two weeks before the wedding to review details.
- Give him or her list of attendants, guest and family members to pose in formal portraits.
- List not-to-be missed photos.
- Brief photographer about awkward family relationships (e.g., divorced parents, stepmother with whom you don't get along, gay siblings attending with partners)

## **The Wedding Flowers**

- Carry a mass of baby's breath; it looks grand and is priced right
- Avoid wired, labour intensive-more expensive-bouquets. Opt instead for a few full-blown peonies or a single hydrangea, simply bound with ribbon.
- Find your own antique or unusual ribbon or lace (at flea markets, in antique stores) some florists have only a standard supply; your bouquet can look more elegant with special touches.
- Avoid scheduling your wedding on or near a flower-giving holiday. Flowers can be much more expensive near Valentines day or mothers day
- Utilize seasonal (more plentiful), local (less costly) blooms and flowering branches. Vases of fresh-cut garden rhododendron or magnolia are magnificent.
- Consider blossoming bulbs as tables centrepieces; trim small pots of miniature daffodils, hyacinths with a bow of tulle
- Select wedding and reception sites that need minimal decoration- a flowering garden or ornate room
- Use ceremony arrangements at the reception site



- A single majestic arrangement is more impressive than a dozen minimal clutters

### **Aromatic Flowers**

- Flowers perfect for potpourri and sure to leave a fragrant memory in your path; daffodil, freesia, gardenia, grape hyacinth, iris, jasmine, lilac, lily, magnolia, rose, stephanotis, violet.

### **The Menu and the reception**

#### Reception meal options

- Seated breakfast
- Seated brunch
- Seated Luncheon
- Buffet brunch, lunch, or dinner
- Afternoon Tea
- Punch or Cake
- Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres
- Dinner by the bite
- Seated dinner

#### Caters Contract tips

- Date, time, site, and room; adjust policy if room is switched, party is cancelled
- Type of food service (e.g., buffet, seated meal, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres)
- Type of service; whether first course will be present
- Staff-per-guest ratio (including waiters, bartenders, valets, coat check, rest room attendants)
- Payment schedule (never pay everything in advance)
- Sales Tax, gratuity, bar fees.
- Whether musicians, photographer, wedding consultant will be fed
- Food substitutions, quality (e.g., no pre-packaged foods).
- When final head count is due
- Cancellation, overtime fee's
- Prices quoted for foods (set 90 days before wedding); services you might add, with a ceiling on menu increases (often 10 percent)
- Names of banquet manager and staff members who will be present at your wedding
- Insurance (liability) coverage

#### Reception Rental Tips

- Select rentals and finalize three to six months before the wedding
- Ask for referrals
- Visit showroom; check variety, cleanliness, equipment condition



- Visit the site with the rental agent; evaluate lighting and sound needs, layout, and decorations.
- Rent one- and-a half times as many place settings as guests for a seated meal, twice as many for a buffet; twice as many napkins as guest; one-and-a half to two times as many glasses as guests, depending on beverages served.
- Save- rent high quality disposable place setting, tables covers, napkins
- Outdoors- rent weather proof coverings (canopies to protect from sun, drizzle; tents in decorative shapes with sides, flooring) control tent temperature with heaters, ceiling, fans, and air conditioner.
- Outdoors and at home- rent portable latrines, coat racks
- Sign and countersign an itemized contract-list equipment to be supplied, rental fees, delivery and set-up charges, delivery date and location, waivers against damage to equipment, deposit paid (usually 25 percent), if deposit is refundable, and when balance is due.

#### Creative Menu Tips

- Help- yourself dishes of dried fruit and nuts
- Mangoes, kiwis- unusual fruits; new flavours
- Fresh tuna marinated with oils, garlic herbs, then grilled; fresh sturgeon or swordfish-similar to meat, it's hearty
- Rack of lamb, lighter than roast beef
- Vegetables grown organically
- Fresh vegetables tossed in olive oil
- Steamed golden acorn or butternut squash
- Sautéed wild mushrooms
- Make your own salad bars; unusual lettuces and accompaniments
- Risotto (Italian rice dish cooked with stock, seasoning)
- Couscous (grain-like African pasta)
- Italian polenta (cornmeal baked into cakes)
- Serve your own vinegars, clove vinegar on salmon, anise vinegar on salads.

#### Light decorations

- Home wedding-choose a single colour scheme for flowers, linen- to unify various objects, elements.
- Country setting- dress up white lines with strips, polka dots; go for splashes of table colour- buckets of vivid wildflowers, fresh fruits; cover the ground with straw, bright quilts.
- Outdoor lighting- paper lanterns, a chandelier hung in a tree, hurricane candelabrum with tapers on each table
- Outdoor decorations- a rainbow of ribbons, "curtains" of rice paper hanging from trees.
- Victorian wedding- cluster collectibles on tables (porcelain figurines, silver frames, ribbed nosegays); dress tables with damask cloths, lace runners, doilies, brocade napkins.



- Garlands- adorn with flowers, fruits, vines, ribbons. Drape across doorways, windows; swag around tables; intertwine, among buffet dishes.
- Romance- tapers throughout the room; votive candles on each table, pastel shades (peach, pink, lavender, cream), centrepieces of roses in full bloom, rose petals scattered on tables
- Scent- fragment flowers (e.g., roses, lilacs, gardenias) scented oil in votives
- Formal evening- go bold- burgundy, black overlays on gold- fringed tablecloths; rent statuary, leather screens. Doric columns topped with huge floral arrangements, topiaries to flank doorways.

## The cake

### Cake Innovations

- Woven Basket icing
- Spun sugar swans, butterflies
- Delicate sugar orchids, roses, anemones, lilies, pansies, daisies, etc., coordinating with the floral decorations
- Gum paste flowers and beaded medallions echoing colour and details of the wedding dress, colour scheme
- Elaborate lace and embroidery details in icing, echoing the wedding dress
- Rainbow-hued pulled sugar ribbons
- Clusters of white chocolate, coloured berries, grapes cascading across latticework tiers.
- Icing baskets filled with sugar field flowers
- Photograph of couple on ski slope, tennis court reproduced on the cake
- Different flavour for every tier
- Edible 22k-gold leaf for art deco weddings
- Satellite stands display large wedding cake and several smaller cakes; some rotate, have fountains between tiers
- Marzipan fruits and flowers; candy hearts; white or ark chocolate.
- A cake with tiers shaped and decorated like festively wrapped packages

### Creative Cake Topping

- Porcelain bridal pair
- Porcelain figurines painted to resemble bride and groom in colouring, features, and attire
- Blown glass ornaments
- Electric lights illuminating golden bells
- A music box playing a favourite song
- Animals in bridal attire (e.g., dogs, bunnies, etc)
- Famous cartoon couples (e.g., Mickey and Minney, Kermit and Miss Piggy)
- Regional symbols (e.g., cowboy and cowgirl)

### Creative Activities



- Live statues that wink, blow kisses, fall off pedestals- to amuse and surprise guests.
- Fortune teller
- Handwriting analyst
- Mimes
- Professional dancers who give a demonstration, a group lesson.
- Disposable cameras on each table, so guests can pose for or snap their own pictures.

### **The Wedding Dress**

- Instead of a traditional long veil, fresh or silk flowers are caught with a wisp of veiling; a hat is tied with tulle, banded with fresh flowers.
- Initials and wedding date are embroidered on handkerchiefs by bride, and then passed to the next woman in their family to wed.
- Brides to reflect their heritage wear traditional clothing.
- Good luck symbols- small silver charms- is sewn into the hems of bride's gowns.
- Symbolic bridal bouquets- composed of flowers with special meanings, or flowers, whose first letters spell out a message
- Some brides carry the first flowers the groom ever sent them, or wildflowers from a family garden.

### **Gown Shopping List**

*Here is what to wear and bring when shopping for your gown.*

- Strapless bra or bustier, to give you the versatility to try on all gown styles
- White control-top panty hose or regular white panty hose
- White slip (petticoat should be bought with dress, or a special one may be made for the dress)
- Shoes the same heel height you'll wear on your wedding day. (Buy wedding shoes to match dress style, before the first fitting)
- Hairstyles planned for the wedding day.

### **Wedding Dress Contract Tips**

*Specify these points in a signed and countersigned contract or bill of sale*

- Dress manufacture and style number, size, colour (white, eggshell, ecru)
- Embellishments: hand-embroidered, Alencon lace, sequins, pearls etc.
- Special order requests and costs (e.g., raise the back three inches, taper dolman sleeves)
- Delivery date
- Price and payment schedule, deposit paid, fitting and pressing costs.
- Stores policy on refunds (should be 100 percent if garment is never delivered), cancellations.



- Store policy for gown storage, pickup (can gown be borrowed for a pre wedding photo session and returned).

### **Dress features for each Body type**

- Hourglass shape- off the shoulder portrait neckline flatters large chest; v-shaped Basque waist and full skirt flatter waist and hips.
- Short waist- princess shape creates long, slim, silhouette; high-low waist lengthens torso
- Thick waist-empire line with skirt flowing from below the bust minimizes waist and creates a long, lean silhouette.
- Boyish figure- ornamentation at neckline enhances bust; wide band of pleating at waist adds dimension to lanky upper body
- Full figure- tapering leg of mutton sleeves flatter full arms; v- waist de-emphasize bust and hips
- Small bust- flowers around strapless bodice balance pear-shaped figure; bows on an off-the-shoulder neckline add shape to slim torso.
- Petite-simple gown flatters a tiny figure; sheath elongates look; subtle shoulder details keeps focus up and adds height
- Great legs- above the knee sheath with detachable overskirt or simple min-dress plays up perfect legs.

### **How to walk in a gown:**

Here are tips for walking gracefully, without tripping, in a floor-length gown, with or without a train:

- Scuff new bridal shoes in advance
- Practice walking at home in your gown and shoes
- Keep head erect, shoulders back, so gown hangs properly on your body.
- Hold gown from the sides and slide it smoothly upward a few inches when ascending or descending stairs.

### **Something old, something new...**

- Something old: a family heirloom- a Bible, antique lace on the gown, jewellery- for continuity.
- Something new: the brides clothes, lingerie- for optimism
- Something borrowed: a lacy handkerchief, jewellery borrowed from a happily married relative (happiness rubs off)
- Something blue: blue ribbon threaded through lace slips, in garter- for purity, fidelity, love.
- Penny in your show: a sixpence in England, a quarter in Canada, and a penny in the US- to ensure a life of fortune.

### **Grooms Attire**



## Dress Trends For The Groom

- Some grooms wear outfits that reflect their heritage
- Most grooms choose to wear a wedding band- rings are usually gold or platinum, some studded with diamonds, other gemstones
- Grooms wear a boutonniere that makes a meaningful statement: a bachelor's button (celibacy), a red chrysanthemum ("I love you"), a myrtle spring (love), a white rose ("I am worthy of you"), sweet William (gallantry).
- Grooms are having bachelor parties that they and their friends enjoy, where they can talk to each other: dinner at a favourite restaurant, a baseball game, and a ski weekend with old friends.
- Grooms are selecting their own grooms cake, baked in their favourite flavours (ex. banana, chocolate), in a clever shape (top hat, golf course, tennis racket)

## Your unique exit

Here are unique ways to make your exit:

- Hot air balloon
- Dogsled, skies
- Horse and sleigh
- Horse and buggy
- Water or ski gondola
- Bicycle built for two
- Fire truck
- Roller blades
- Mobile home
- Trolley
- Helicopter, small plane
- Antique car
- Motorcycle
- In costumes, with musical serenade

## Car decorating tips

Ushers must decorate carefully so as not to damage the car or obscure visions for driving:

- Use masking or floral tape, or shoe polish. Avoid using glue, cellophane, tape, rubber cement, or paint, which can cause damage to the car's paint finish.
- Don't write or drape streamers, balloons, across windows; obscuring views are dangerous.
- If it looks like rain, steer clear of coloured crepe paper, which might bleed
- Be sure it's the right car.

## Wedding Etiquette



#### *Child Attendants Do's and Don'ts*

- Do include child attendants in the rehearsal so they can practise their parts and become familiar with the site.
- Don't invite children to attend an evening rehearsal dinner or other pre wedding parties
- Do invite child attendant to the reception, along with their parents.
- Do seat the parents of child attendants on the aisle, in one of the front pews. Parents are familiar faces, and can offer encouragement to their children as they walk past. Children may also sit with them after going down the aisle. This eliminates fidgeting while standing at the alter and distracting everyone's attention from the ceremony
- Do assign a relative (or hire a babysitter) to supervise young attendants at the reception. A teenage guest might set up a play area with activities and snacks. Or include a children's table on your seating plan (arrange for an adult or teenage to supervise; provide colouring books and crayons).
- Do choose outfits in which young attendants will be comfortable, and which are appropriate for their age.
- Don't insist on cummerbund, bow tie, or other accessory if a child resists wearing it.
- Do thank the children for their participation with a gift (e.g., a teddy bear dressed as a bride or groom). Thank their parents, as well, perhaps with a nicely framed photograph of their child walking down the aisle.

#### *Gift receiving etiquette*

- Register your gift preferences together
- Ask relatives, attendants, and friend to spread the word where you are registered
- Suggest that your maid of honour send out a "wedding newsletter" to other attendants, shower guest, listing where you are registered.
- Never print registry location on wedding invitations. It is acceptable to have shower hostesses enclose printed registry cards in shower invitations only.
- Keep all enclosures cards and accurate gift records. Buy a wedding planning notebook or gift record book from bridal salon, stationer or bookstore as soon as you get engaged.

#### *Thank You Note tips:*

- Enlist your groom's help
- It's acceptable to write one thank you note for a gift given by a large group
- Acknowledge gifts received before the wedding within two weeks of their arrival; within a month after the honeymoon for gifts received on the wedding day; within a month of receipt afterward.

#### *Buy thank you gifts for:*

- Bridesmaids and ushers
- Honour attendants
- Child attendants



- Pre- wedding party hosts
- Ceremony readers and soloists, musicians who are friends.
- Friends who lodge or drive out of town guests.
- Parents
- Each other

## **The Honeymoon**

### *Honeymoons Tips*

- Purchase the lowest refundable fare if plans are tentative
- Investigate off season rates
- Consider package tours
- Book Hotel, airfare, cruise, and car rental at the same time- and early.
- Book non-stop flights, no stops or plan changes
- On a cruise, ask about cabin sizes, prices; if beds are double or bunks
- Turn in frequent flier miles early; leave time to receive discount coupons.
- If renting a car, reserve early for the model of choice; specify automatic or shift; ask about hidden expenses (e.g., rate per mile, insurance, tax, gas, on way rental). Will car insurance, credit card limit cover rentals?
- Check exchange rates
- Use travel discounts available through profession memberships.
- Watch out for offers that seem “too good to be true”.
- Mention that you are honeymooners

### *Honeymoon Spicer's*

- Breakfast in bed
- Flowers placed on a pillow at bed turndown
- Room service and candlelight
- Champagne lunch on a balcony
- Bubble bath with candles
- Love notes in bottles found on the beach
- Love notes tucked in towels

## **Name Calling?**

### **What to call In- Laws**

#### *Your Options:*

1. “Mom”, “dad”
2. “Mother”, “father”
3. Their first names
4. Whatever your fiancé calls them

### **What to call Step- Parents**

*A divorced and remarried in-law?*



Call the new partner what your fiancé calls him or her (probably by their first name)

*Fiancée has children?*

1. See what they are comfortable with (perhaps you'll be "mom", his or her real mom, and "mommy").
2. Give children the option to be more affectionate in the future (say, "you can call me Anne now, but I'll answer to 'mom' if you ever feel like calling me that").

### **Anniversary Gifts**

1<sup>st</sup> year

Traditional: Paper

Modern: Clock

2<sup>nd</sup> Year

Traditional: Cotton

Modern: China

3<sup>rd</sup> Year

Traditional: Leather

Modern: Crystal

4<sup>th</sup> Year

Traditional: Linen

Modern: Appliances

5<sup>th</sup> Year

Traditional: Wood

Modern: Silverware

6<sup>th</sup> Year

Traditional: Iron

Modern: Wood

7<sup>th</sup> Year

Traditional: Wood

Modern: Desk Sets

8<sup>th</sup> Year

Traditional: Bronze

Modern: Linens, Lace

9<sup>th</sup> Year



Traditional: Pottery  
Modern: Leather

10<sup>th</sup> Year  
Traditional: Tin  
Modern: Diamonds

11<sup>th</sup> Year  
Traditional: Steel  
Modern: Jewellery

12<sup>th</sup> Year  
Traditional: Silk  
Modern: Pearl, Gems

13<sup>th</sup> Year  
Traditional: Lace  
Modern: Textiles, Fur

14<sup>th</sup> Year  
Traditional: Ivory  
Modern: Gold

15<sup>th</sup> Year  
Traditional: Crystal  
Modern: Watches

20<sup>th</sup> Year  
Traditional: China  
Modern: Platinum

25<sup>th</sup> Year  
Traditional: Silver  
Modern: Sterling

30<sup>th</sup> Year  
Traditional: Pearl  
Modern: Diamond

35<sup>th</sup> Year  
Traditional: Coral  
Modern: Jade

40<sup>th</sup> Year  
Traditional: Ruby  
Modern: Ruby



45<sup>th</sup> Year

Traditional: Sapphire

Modern: Sapphire

50<sup>th</sup> year

Traditional: Gold

Modern: Gold

55<sup>th</sup> Year

Traditional: Emerald

Modern: Emerald

60<sup>th</sup> Year

Traditional: Diamond

Modern: Diamond