

GROOM **4 1 1**.COM

presents

Do This!

(and this...and this...and this...)

*What every groom needs to do before
the wedding, presented in a way even
a Cro-Magnon male can understand**

*Warning: Understanding does not imply completing. Groom411.com should not be held responsible for lack of enthusiasm or involvement by the male half of our species in getting to your wedding day. Good luck!

To-do # 1

36 months to go

Find your perfect match

On average, you'll date the girl of your dreams three years before proposing.

If you are single or just starting to date, you have time. So why are you reading this? If you have been dating for a while, watch the clock. You can bet she is.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # 2

36 months to go

Survive the third date

If you clear this hurdle, there's nothing stopping you. For some reason, she likes you. Don't blow it.

Learn what makes her tick and apply that knowledge wisely to your daily activities, conversations and those frequent gifts she's now expecting.

Notes:



Done



Will do by _____

To-do # 3

24 months to go

Please your girlfriend

By now, she should have had at least a handful of orgasms. If not, maybe you should consider picking up a few power tools at your neighborhood adult store.

Having a healthy sex life is important, especially at this point in your relationship. It only goes downhill from here. A recent survey found that unmarried couples living together have sex 146 times a year, while married couples do it only 103 times.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # 4

18 months to go

Please her parents

Sooner or later, you're going to meet her parents. Be polite. Be secure. Be respectful. After all, you can have rude, insecure and disrespectful sex with your girlfriend once your future in-laws finish dinner. Just make sure they actually leave the restaurant before you go at it in the bathroom.

When it's time, wow her dad by asking permission first. Only four percent of men actually ask.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # 5

18 months to go

Start saving your pennies

It's coming. You know it. She knows it. And most important, Sal, the discount jeweler who advertises on late-night television, knows it.

This might be the first time you are faced with how your money is no longer just *your* money. But don't feel bad if you had that realization way back when you picked up the check on date #1.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # 6

13 months to go

Buy the engagement ring

This is a big step. And, if you're feeling generous, a bigger purchase than your car.

\$4,100 is how much average guy will spend on an engagement ring, but most jewelers believe you should spend more. Did you expect them to say less?

If you can afford to (or even if you cannot), bump up your budget. She's going to look at the ring everyday. Sooner or later, it'll pay off (think "Get out of Jail Free").

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # 7

13 months to go

Propose

Hopefully you've been deep knee bending at the gym.

Seventy-two percent of men get down on one knee to propose. Odds are you can stay down there without having to run in shame. There's only a one in seventeen chance you'll be turned down when you propose.

Think that's all the guy has to do for the wedding? Think again. Then read on...

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **8**

12 months to go

Discuss wedding budget

The average wedding costs \$26,000. And lasts about four hours. Do the math. Wait. Don't do the math.

Where does it all go?

Reception:	39%	Rehearsal dinner:	4%
Engagement ring:	16	Music:	4
Photo/Videography:	7	Flowers:	4
Wedding party attire:	7	Gifts:	4
Wedding bands:	6	Stationary:	2
Wedding dress:	5	Limo:	2

Notes:



Done



Will do by _____

To-do # **9**

12 months to go

Help pick out location

Compromise is the cornerstone of any relationship. So don't be too stubborn when she objects to a wedding at a Star Trek convention.

Pick a place that will be memorable, whether it's in your town, your parents' town or an exotic destination. Like Istanbul, Turkey, the number one wedding city in the world. Feeling domestic, think Vegas, the most popular American city for weddings.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **10**

12 months to go

Choose best man & ushers

In ancient times, groomsmen provided the muscle necessary to complete a marriage. When a groom captured his bride, his friends kept the peace with the bride's family. In modern times, groomsmen are more likely used to entertain single bridesmaids.

Even though it's now easier to maintain order than the old days, plan for one usher for every forty guests. You never know how the new in-laws will react.

Notes:



Done



Will do by _____

To-do # **11**

12 months to go

Endure countless vendors

In order to stay in her good graces, be prepared to go to plenty of bridal fairs, food tastings, music listentings and wedding planner interviews.

Remember being prepared to go does not imply being prepared to offer an opinion. Speak only when spoken to. And if asked, "I like what you like" is always a safe response.

Notes:



Done



Will do by _____

To-do # **12**

9 months to go

Start the guest list

The average number of guests invited to a wedding is one hundred and sixty four. So start making new friends or digging up old relatives if necessary.

Don't take it too personally if Aunt Martha bails. On average, twenty percent of invited guests won't attend. Just be sure to remind them about the wide range of gifts left on the registry (see To-Do # 13).

Notes:

Done **Will do by** _____

To-do # **13**

9 months to go

Start your registry

Dizzy from china patters? Don't believe you should use a minimum of two forks per meal? Try adding a few items from Home Depot or the Sony store.

Not sure how to ask for cold hard cash? There are many online services to help your guests contribute to a honeymoon, home purchase or mutual fund.

89% of newlyweds claim to have received many or most items from the registry. Happy picking.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **14**

9 months to go

Identify officiant & discuss ceremony details

If you plan on a religious ceremony, check for pre-wedding requirements, such as couples counseling. If it's interfaith, clear things with your priest or rabbi first. You don't want the "I object" to come from the altar.

Other than the promise to marry, the content of the ceremony is yours to make up. Be creative!

Notes:

Done **Will do by** _____

To-do # **15**

9 months to go

Start honeymoon planning

This one is all you baby! She expects you to plan this from Airlines to Zoo tours.

The average honeymoon lasts eight days and costs about \$3,700. Top honeymoon destinations include Paris, Venice and Honolulu. Have more exotic thoughts? Be sure to confirm your passports are still valid and check for any visa or immunization requirements.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **16**

9 months to go

Book band and/or DJ

Music can make or break a party. Spend time scouting for talent. Hit the clubs. Crash a few weddings. At a minimum, make sure the band can play the songs you most want. A DJ is usually less expensive and can offer a wider variety of music, but is generally less formal.

And make sure you get everything you want in writing. You know how flaky rock stars can be.

Notes:



Done



Will do by _____

To-do # **17**

9 months to go

Attend engagement party

The first of many parties to come! This is the time to announce your upcoming union to the world. Invite friends and family, but probably not any ex-girlfriends. Or at least not your most recent ex-girlfriend.

Gifts should be appreciated, but not required. Although you might want to note who brings the twenty dollar bottle of champagne and who brings the six-pack of sparkling grape cider.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **18**

6 months to go

Complete honeymoon plans

Still not done? It's not that hard. There's a ton of online sites that can do everything except enter your credit card number for you.

Waiting for that amazine last-minute deal? Don't unless she's both adventuresome and has a good sense of humor. While you might score a cheap trip to Fiji sixteen hours before you say "I do," there's a good chance you'll wind up on a two-week bus tour of Cleveland.

Notes:



Done



Will do by _____

To-do # **19**

6 months to go

Pay for some flowers

Technically, you are responsible for paying for the bride's bouquet, bridesmaids' corsages and grooms-men's boutonnieres.

Hopefully she'll have already picked the floral scheme and all you have to do is write the check. If not, be mindful about how the colors match the bridesmaid dresses. Your mate will be impressed. Especially if you usually mix black and brown in your daily attire.

Notes:



Done



Will do by _____

To-do # **20**

6 months to go

Plan rehearsal dinner

The groom (or his family) picks up the check for the rehearsal dinner. Choose a fun place, such as a restaurant or a large house, to celebrate. But try not to invite the world.

Typically, you should invite the wedding party, both sets of parents, grandparents and godparents, the officiant and any out-of-town guests.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **21**

4 months to go

Find new place to live

If you aren't living together already, you need to plan for shelter after the wedding. Your choices are simple: your place, her place or some place else.

Compare cost, square footage, rodent population and ability to store things (lots of presents are coming). If still undecided, think about making a clean break and pick a new place. Just be sure there's room for your La-Z-Boy, neon Bud sign and high school diploma.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **22**

4 months to go

Get away for weekend

By now, your blood pressure may be higher than your daily ATM limit. You need a break. And don't forget the future Mrs. You needs a break, too.

Take a wedding-free trip for the weekend. Don't worry about spending a lot. Just taking a time-out from the daily grind may mean more to her than a suite at the Four Seasons. But if you can splurge, by all means order the seaweed wrap for two.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **23**

4 months to go

Attend Couple's Shower

Couple's showers are gaining in popularity, so odds are someone will be hosting this for you. The good news is that the gifts tend to be less about the bride. But don't think they'll be more about you. Think couple. The bad news is you'll probably be embarrassed by the party games. Games that involve your mate picking you out by groping the male attendees. Or you trying to dress each other for the honeymoon while blindfolded. Or folks telling wild stories about you two.

Notes:



Done



Will do by _____

To-do # **24**

3 months to go

Order wedding rings

While her wedding band should probably compliment the engagement ring, you have many more choices. There's gold, titanium or platinum. Comfort, fancy or plain bands. Diamonds or two-toned accents. Three, four, five or six millimeters.

At a minimum you can have matching engravings. Some couples have their initials engraved with their wedding date inside the ring. Avoid suggesting "RIP."

Notes:



Done



Will do by _____

To-do # **25**

3 months to go

Plan hotels for out-of-towners

Unless you want your second cousin, twice removed staying in your honeymoon suite, reserve a block of rooms at a convenient hotel for any out-of-town guests.

Especially family members. Your families are probably good people, but too much of a good thing might not be so good on your wedding weekend.

Notes:

Done **Will do by** _____

To-do # **26**

3 months to go

Complete guest list

Time to dust off the guest list and keep folks from wondering if they made the cut. If you are tight for space (or cash), prioritize who can bring a date. At a minimum, require each guest to know the last name and ZIP code of his or her intended date. If there are more than a few singles, feel free to help them meet “the one” by putting them at a table together.

Notes:

Done **Will do by** _____

To-do # **27**

3 months to go

Call your mother

There's going to be a new Mrs. Smith (or Jones or Bundy) soon. And that might cause some concern with the original one. Thank your mom. Tell her how much her support means to you. And to your future wife (even if they aren't on speaking terms yet).

A simple call to mom will help make your transition from her innocent little boy to her married big man easier. Put those free nighttime minutes to good use.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **28**

3 months to go

Buy honeymoon clothes

It's never too early. Unless you are trying to drop a Speedo size or two. Don't push this one out too far. Losing weight gets harder as the wedding approaches.

Plus after all of your wedding expenses, you might not want to go clothes shopping. But before you dismiss a J. Crew trip, consider how much of a mood-blower your tattered Motley Crue T-shirt will be at your beach bungalow.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **29**

3 months to go

Choose your tuxedo style

Technically a tuxedo is considered semi-formal attire, but it's probably what you and your groomsmen will be wearing on the big day.

Your tux should include a black dinner jacket, trousers, bow tie and white shirt. If you don't want her to be the only one in white, have a summer or hot climate wedding. Then it's okay for you to wear a white dinner jacket. Just be easy on the lace.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **30**

3 months to go

Attend dance lessons

Like it or not, you will be the center of attention throughout the wedding. And especially during your first song. If you've been grooving since the term grooving was popular, you might be in good shape. But odds are you need some practice. Find a local dance studio or ballroom that offers wedding packages. Typically they include both group and private sessions. And if you want to swing, salsa or tango, make sure the instructor is equipped to handle it. As well as your hips.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **31**

3 months to go

Check marriage license requirements

You should call or visit the appropriate license bureau (usually the city or county clerk's office) and make sure you understand how to obtain a license. You may have to get a blood test in order to complete the application. Some states have a mandatory waiting period and/or expiration date for the licenses. It's best not to joke about any of these topics with your mate.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **32**

3 months to go

Buy bride & groomsmen gifts

A gift is a great way to thank your buddies for putting up with you during your engagement and for helping out during the wedding. You could get the same gift for everyone or try to personalize each one. Plan to give the gifts during the rehearsal dinner.

As for your bride, you don't have to go overboard. A simple (read: inexpensive) piece of jewelry or keepsake (scrapbook, photo album) should do the trick.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **33**

3 months to go

Help write thank you's

The wedding hasn't happened and already you have to say thanks. For what? Maybe presents from your couple's shower. Or from your engagement party. Or early wedding gifts.

Put your gift of gab to good work. Still stuck? Just be sure to personalize each one by referencing their present and telling the giver what you plan to do with it. Besides returning it for cash.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **34**

3 months to go

Attend Bachelor Party

You're probably not dreading this one.

The average bachelor party costs over \$1,000 and includes ten men. Thirsty? The average amount of beer consumed is four cases. Horny? There's a one in three chance of seeing a stripper at the average party. Jealous? Don't be. Almost four out of five men claim they wouldn't mind if there were a male stripper at their fiancée's bachelorette party.

Notes:



Done



Will do by _____

To-do # **35**

3 months to go

Pick up wedding rings

Nothing shows your woman that you care about the wedding than helping out with the little things so she can focus on bigger issues (like how many roses there will be on each centerpiece).

While you are at the jewelry store, make note of all the diamond bracelets, earrings and necklaces. Just because you bought a diamond ring, don't think you're done with that precious gem.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **36**

3 months to go

Begin financial consolidation

Time to start saying “what’s mine is yours.” If you haven’t already, be prepared to discuss how to handle finances (savings, bills, credit cards, etc.) in the future. Research how to add your fiancée to your bank accounts (or open a joint account) and stock portfolios as well as making her your primary beneficiary for insurance and retirement accounts. And yes, you’ll have to tell her your ATM PIN soon. If it has anything to do with a previous girlfriend, change the PIN first.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **37**

3 months to go

Check under her hood

By this point, she has been 150% focused on making sure the wedding goes smoothly and 0% on everything else, including her car. Surprise her by getting the oil changed. Odds are she forgot that pesky three month or 3,000 mile rule long ago.

And if you don't complain about the condition of her car, she may let you use your dip stick on her as well. Vroom vroom.

Notes:



Done



Will do by _____

To-do # **38**

2 months to go

Mail wedding invitations

Start stuffing, licking and stamping! Any guest over eighteen should receive an invitation, even those very familiar with the details (like your parents). Never type or use labels on the outer envelope. Stuffing the invitations should be easy for those good at jigsaw puzzles. Or scored 700 on their math SATs. Besides the invite, expect to neatly place a response card, envelope, directions, maps and tissue paper inside.

Notes:



Done



Will do by _____

To-do # **39**

2 months to go

Wine and dine her

Plan for another wedding-free moment.

Go to your favorite restaurant. Relive your first date. Or kiss. Or you-know-what. Ask how she's doing. And really listen. Don't race home to catch the end of the game. Or the latest episode of Survivor. That's what TiVo is for. And if you don't have a TiVo yet, add it to your registry.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **40**

3 weeks to go

Pour your heart out

Time to write your vows, speeches and toasts. Or at least copy and paste some sappy words from the Web. If you are writing your own vows, try to include words like love, cherish, sacrifice, promise, infinite and respect. Avoid pain, suffering, one-way and maybe.

Don't expect to just wing the speeches and toasts, even if you are a funny drunk. You are not a funny drunk.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **41**

3 weeks to go

Verify honeymoon details

Now's not the time to assume all is well with the honeymoon. Expect the worst. Call the airlines, hotels, tour companies, bars and boogie board rental shacks. Make sure they know you are coming.

You might want to order flowers, fruit/cheese platter and champagne to be in your hotel room before you arrive. Or at least save your bag of airplane peanuts. Okay, just steal hers.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **42**

3 weeks to go

Plan transportation with best man

No this isn't about a getaway car. Your best man should help with ride arrangements from the reception to the airport (or hotel if you are leaving the next day).

It's okay to rely on your best man for help with other things as well. That's his job. Along with marrying your fiancée if you fail to show up at the wedding.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **43**

2 weeks to go

Pick up marriage license

Time to head to the clerk's office and sign your life away. Go as a couple and bring proper identification (with picture and signature). If this isn't your first marriage, be prepared to say when your last one ended. If it's recent, you may need to show a certified copy of the divorce or death certificate.

It shouldn't take too long to complete this task.
Do something fun afterwards.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **44**

1 week to go

Pack your bags

It's not what you think. Or if you failed miserably at helping her plan the wedding, it is what you think.

Take a few moments and pack a change of clothes for after the reception and all your new honeymoon attire. Doing this early will ensure you have time for any last minute purchases. You can't have enough flower-print shirts and boat shoes.

Notes:



Done



Will do by _____

Pack your house

If there's any moving to be done, do it now to make it easier when you get back from your honeymoon. Throw out the garbage (translation: anything your fiancée says is the "old you"), box your stuff and coordinate the movers (or the U-Haul, if you are a do-it-yourselfer).

Don't forget to fill out change of address forms. You wouldn't want to miss a single issue of Playboy.

Notes:

**Done****Will do by** _____

To-do # **46**

1 week to go

Pick up your tuxedo

Try on your tux to make sure all the measurements were correct. Or if your weight swung one way or the other, there's enough time to alter the clothes.

Also, follow up with everyone in your wedding party, including fathers, to make sure they pick up their tuxedos as well. Nothing ruins a wedding faster than a group of guys who look like they picked their formal wear from Goodwill.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **47**

1 week to go

Remind groomsmen of rehearsal & wedding details

Besides telling your friends to take it easy on the still-single and desperate women guests, you should take the time to explain any special seating requirements or other wedding details. In addition, give the officiant's fee to best man. Preferably in check form. Especially if you are giving your groomsmen pep talk at a strip joint.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **48**

1 week to go

Upgrade personal hygiene

Time's running out. While you probably won't drop a few inches around your waist or get those six-pack abs she really wants, there are things you can do to be more presentable during your wedding (and beyond).

Get a haircut. Floss more often. Sleep a bit longer each night. And a few last minute workouts and stomach crunches wouldn't hurt either.

Notes:



Done



Will do by _____

To-do # **49**

3 days to go

Attend rehearsal & dinner

Practice makes perfect. Hence the rehearsal. Let the officiant guide you. Odds are he or she has done this a few more times than you. Also, make sure your fiancée is happy. Now's the time to make any changes.

The best man and host (usually your father) should make toasts at the dinner. You and your fiancée should thank the wedding party and your parents as well. Also, you should hand out your groomsmen gifts.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **50**

0 days to go

Perform pre-wedding details

The big day. It's finally here. Besides patting yourself on the back (even if you didn't complete many of your to-do's), there are a few things you should do to make it through the day:

- Eat a big breakfast
- Give ring to best man
- Put license in your pocket
- Turn off cell
- Don't be late!

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **51**

0 days to go

Say "I do"

This one is easy to remember. You've seen it in countless movies. Depending on how you scripted the wedding ceremony, you might have to say more than this. But whatever you do, don't take this note with you. It screams tacky. Let your tux choice speak for your taste.

After you affirm your intentions, take a deep breath and enjoy the moment. The best is about to come.

Notes:



Done



Will do by _____

To-do # **52**

0 days to go

Socialize at wedding

Your guests traveled far and wide to join you today. And even if they didn't, you should still thank everyone for sharing in your special day. Don't just hang with your bride. You'll have the next five decades for that.

Mingle. Dance with your guests. Smile for pictures. Also, eat some food . Most couples forget to enjoy what they spent all their money on.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____

To-do # **53**

0 days to go

Speak up

The first few toasts will be about you (from the best man, maid of honor and your bride's father). Then it's your turn to speak. This is your chance to toast your new bride, thank your families (especially your in-laws) and thank friends for coming.

In addition, you might want to say a few words with your bride towards the end of the reception. Besides "the last bus to Springfield leaves in ten minutes."

Notes:



Done



Will do by _____

To-do # **54**

0 days to go

Seal the deal

Don't go to sleep without officially sanctioning the wedding. And satisfying your new wife. But, if you only get one out of two done, at least your married. Where else can she go?

1 in 6 men and 1 in 3 women are virgins on their wedding day. 1 in 4 men have sex three or more times and 1 in 8 men don't have sex once on their wedding night. And don't forget to carry her over the threshold first.

Notes:

Done

Will do by _____