

Guys Only Information!

Being a guy isn't easy, we know...that's why we've got a special section devoted to you—away from the girls...

Planning your wedding with your fiancée will require you to find patience and humor in the unlikeliest of places, but remember, it's a day that your wife-to-be has dreamed of since she was a little girl...So have fun, and let her have fun, too...

The Bachelor Party

Oh, boy, the bachelor party...The stuff of legends and sometimes, nasty hangovers...Your bachelor party style will say much about your personality and those of your friends...So have fun...

The tradition of bachelor parties reportedly began with ancient Spartan soldiers who hosted lively parties to say goodbye to their bachelorhood.

Typically, the Best Man is responsible for organizing and hosting the Bachelor Party.

At many parties, each guest pays a standard amount to cover accommodations and entertainment.

Let your Best Man know what type of party you're envisioning...wild and woolly or mild and mellow?

Keep control of your guest list for the party. Try not to invite people you barely know or barely tolerate. It's your night and you shouldn't have to worry about being "politically correct" if you don't want to be.

In the eastern half of the United States, Atlantic City has long been a popular choice for bachelor parties.

For the western half, Las Vegas has hosted its fair share of bachelor parties.

Road trips with the guys have long been a bachelor party tradition. Sometimes, the journey along the way is even more fun than the destination.

Go camping and/or fishing with your buddies away from the TV, phones, newspapers, and the ladies for a couple of days.

New trends in bachelor parties are "golf weekends". Destinations like Palm Springs, California or Hilton Head, South Carolina caters to weekend golf packages, which make great bachelor party events.

Another recent trend is the coordination of the Bachelor and Bachelorette Parties. Couples schedule their parties for the same weekend at the same destination. This is great because it gives your Bridal Party a chance to get to know each other and everyone can have a great time.

It is usually not a great idea to have your bachelor party the night before your wedding.

There's nothing worse than nursing a hangover on the most important day of your life.

Try to schedule yours at least two days before...a week before is even better.

Relaxation Techniques

The stress is mounting and you need to "get away"...Here are some tips to keep the anxiety-level at a minimum...

Try a professional massage from a quality spa. You can usually choose from a variety of styles like Swedish, Thai, Shiatsu, and Reflexology.

Acupressure and Acupuncture are two techniques that focus on your body's interconnected "highways and byways" of nerves, muscles, and pressure points. A qualified acupressurist or acupuncturist will be able to identify the regions of your stress and then attend to them. Be sure to drink lots of water before and after, as your body will release toxins ready to be washed away.

Yoga is a wonderfully natural way to increase your body's ability to control your breathing and tone your muscles.

Meditation is a great way to put the world out of reach for a bit. Concentrate on relaxing each part of your body starting with your toes and moving up to your ankles, etc.

Relax in a spa or Jacuzzi.

Go on a road trip with some great friends. Depending on your mood, it could be a trip out to nature or a chance to paint the town red.

Do something athletic, whether it's a bike ride, softball, golf, or hiking with your guy friends.

Dive into that book you've been meaning to read or even better, read something about your honeymoon destination.

Call friends and family, even ones you'll be seeing shortly on your wedding day. You'll appreciate having someone to hear you and he or she'll be pleased that you've called even when you're so busy.

If you're creative, try free-form, stream-of-consciousness writing or painting on paper or canvas. Who knows, you may end up with the perfect gift for your spouse-to-be or maybe your parents.

Checklist

Okay, here's checklist that's broken down into a timeline...Just keep track of the months and the tasks and it should be smooth sailing for you down the aisle and beyond...

12 months, or as soon as possible, before your wedding:

- Purchase the engagement ring for your fiancée.
- After discussions with your bride-to-be, select your wedding time, date, style, theme, and color scheme.
- Choose who will be your Groomsmen and Ushers; keeping in mind there should be an equal number of Groomsmen to Bridesmaids.
- Begin creating your guest list.
- Participate in all the decision-making details to plan out your wedding. Keep in mind this is the biggest party the two of you may throw. And to top it off, it's probably been a dream day for your bride-to-be since she was a little girl. So flexibility, patience and genuine interest are the best qualities to keep you her hero.
- Begin planning and arranging your honeymoon.
- Reserve the wedding day transportation.
- Determine where the two of you will live after you return from your honeymoon.

4 months before your wedding:

- Begin shopping for wedding rings with your fiancée.
- Finalize your guest list, complete with names, addresses, and phone numbers.
- Research Marriage License requirements like a blood test, where and when to apply.
- Go shopping for your formalwear with your fiancée. Also make sure to reserve your groomsmen's attire as well.
- Finalize all details for your honeymoon including deposits.
- Set up lodging arrangements for guests from out-of-town.

2 months before your wedding:

- Get together with your Officiant to go over your ceremony details.
- Coordinate with your parents to help with the plans for the Rehearsal Dinner.
- Determine the costs for the flowers the groom is responsible for.

1 month before your wedding:

- Go apply in-person with your fiancée for your Marriage License.
- Confirm that all of your groomsmen and ushers have been fitted and their formalwear reserved.
- Buy gifts for your Best Man, Groomsmen, and Ushers.
- Buy a wedding gift for your fiancée, *if you both plan to exchange gifts*.
- After making sure they fit, store the wedding rings in a very safe place like a safe or safety deposit box at your bank.
- Begin adding your bride-to-be's name to things like your checking and savings accounts, medical plans, insurance policies, and wills.
- Negotiate and sign a pre-nuptial agreement, if applicable.

2 weeks before your wedding:

- Double-check the lodging accommodations for your out-of-town guests.
- If you are going to be living in a different location after your honeymoon, send in your change of address information to the Post Office and contact the local utilities about electricity, water, and gas service to be turned on upon your arrival.
- Assist your fiancée in packing her items for moving.
- Get your hair trimmed or cut.
- Write/rewrite your will.

1 week before your wedding:

- Go over all final details with your fiancée and offer to help with any tasks if needed.
- Go by the men's formalwear shop and try on your formalwear. If it fits correctly, bring it back home with you. If not, get the alterations done immediately by the shop.
- Double-check that your attendants have picked up their formalwear and that theirs fit correctly.
- Double-check your honeymoon airline, hotel, rental car, and/or cruise ship reservations.
- Pack your clothes and items that you'll bring along on your honeymoon.
- Double-check that your attendants will be at the rehearsal and they are clear on their roles and duties.
- Explain any special seating arrangements and/or pew cards with your ushers.
- Have your bachelor party.

1 day before your wedding:

- Go to your wedding rehearsal and make sure your attendants are there as well.

- After the rehearsal, go to the Rehearsal Dinner and have a nice time but don't party too hard!
- Get to bed early and get some rest.

Day of your wedding:

- When you wake up, take a nice hot bath.
- Make certain to eat some good food the morning of your wedding. Skipping an important meal like breakfast on an important day like this is not a good idea.
- About four hours before your ceremony have your hair done.
- Begin getting dressed about 60 minutes before the ceremony. If you are planning on shooting pictures before your ceremony, make sure you and the Bridal Party are ready two hours before the ceremony.
- Get to your ceremony location early if possible.
- Give the wedding ring to your Best Man to hold on to.
- Give the Officiant fee to the Best Man in a sealed envelope so he can give it to the Officiant after the ceremony.
- Give the Marriage License to your Best Man for signing after the ceremony.
- Have your Best Man and your bride's Maid/Matron of Honor sign the license as witnesses.
- At the reception, your first dance will be with your bride. After that, you should dance with both mothers and each of the bridesmaids.
- Give a toast to your bride, her parents, and your parents.
- Give a toast to your Best Man and her Maid/Matron of Honor.
- Thank both your bride's parents and your parents before you leave the reception.

After your wedding:

Send flowers or a telegram to your bride's parents on your first day of your honeymoon to thank them for such a terrific wedding and reception.

Love, honor, and respect your bride!

Worksheet

Are you ready to learn about fondant versus butter-cream?

What about doilies?

Relax...Sure, there's a lot to consider being a groom-to-be but really, you've got the easier job (shhh!) and we've make it even easier with this handy worksheet that will keep you and your groomsmen in the know...

Groom's Honor Attendant/Best Man

Pre-Wedding

- Attend Engagement Parties
- Assist Groom with formalwear selection
- Assist Groom with Groomsmen's formalwear selection
- Assist with Wedding Planning Tasks
- Promote Bridal Registry
- Oversee Groomsmen's formalwear order
- Oversee Groomsmen's formalwear payment
- Oversee Groomsmen's formalwear fittings
- Oversee Groomsmen's formalwear dressing
- Plan Couple's Shower
- Plan Bachelor Party
- Attend Bachelor Party
- Assist with Groomsmen's travel and lodging arrangements
- Attend Rehearsal Dinner
- Organize Groomsmen on Wedding Day

Ceremony

- Stand at altar with Groom and Groomsmen before Processional (Christian)
- Walk in Processional (Jewish)
- Hold Bride's Wedding Ring during vows
- Walk with Maid/Matron of Honor in the Recessional
- Sign Marriage License as Witness
- Give Officiant his or her fee

Reception

- Stand in Receiving Line
- Sit Next to Bride at Bridal Table
- Make first toast
- Host/MC Party
- Dance with Maid/Matron of Honor during First Dance
- Assist Vendors as needed
- Pay Vendors
- Collect Gifts

Post-Wedding

- Assist Organizing Post-reception Party
- Drive Bride and Groom to Wedding Night accommodations or airport
- Return all tuxedos

Groomsmen

Pre-Wedding

- Attend Engagement Parties
- Assist Groom with formalwear selection
- Assist Groom with Groomsmen's formalwear selection
- Promote Bridal Registry

- Assist with Wedding Planning Tasks
- Assist with Bachelor Party Planning
- Attend Bachelor Party

Ceremony

- Escort Guests to seats if necessary
- Stand at altar with Groom and Groomsmen before Processional (Christian)
- Walk in Processional (Jewish)
- Stand in line at the altar
- Walk with a Bridesmaid in the Recessional

Reception

- Sit at Bridal Table
- Dance with a Bridesmaid during First Dance
- Assist Vendors as needed

Post-Wedding

- Assist Organizing Post-reception Party
- Attend Post-reception Party
- Attend Post-Wedding Brunch

Ring Bearer

Ceremony

- Walk in Processional right before the Bride
- Carry Ring Pillow
- Sit with Parents during ceremony

Reception

- Sit with Parents during reception

Father-of-the-Bride

Pre-Wedding

- Host first Engagement Party
- Attend second Engagement Party
- Contribute to Wedding Budget
- Assist with Venue Selection
- Assist with out-of-town guest lodging arrangements
- Assist in big planning decisions
- Compile Guest List
- Choose Wedding Day formalwear
- Promote Bridal Registry
- Assist with out-of-town guest transportation

- Accompany Bride and Wife to the Ceremony

Ceremony

- Escort Wife to seat before Processional (Christian)
- Walk the Bride down the aisle during Processional (Christian)
- Walk with Bride and Wife in Processional (Jewish)
- Escort Wife in Recessional (Christian)
- Walk with Wife in Recessional (Jewish)

Reception

- Stand in Receiving Line
- Be announced with Wife
- Sit at Parents' Table
- Assist with Vendor Coordination
- Father-Daughter Dance
- Assist with Paying of Vendors
- Host Post-Wedding Brunch

Post-Wedding

- Attend Post-Wedding Brunch

Father-of-the-Groom

Pre-Wedding

- Attend first Engagement Party
- Host second Engagement Party
- Contribute to Wedding Budget
- Assist in Venue Selection
- Assist in big planning decisions
- Compile Guest List
- Choose Wedding Day formalwear
- Plan Rehearsal Dinner
- Host Rehearsal Dinner

Ceremony

- Escort Wife to seat before Processional
- Escort Wife in Recessional

Reception

- Stand in Receiving Line
- Be announced with Wife
- Sit at Parents' Table
- Make welcome speech
- Toast Couple
- Assist with final Vendor bills

Post-Wedding

- Attend Post-Wedding Brunch