



5 THINGS TO DO When You Get Engaged

by Ray Salisbury

INTRODUCTION

He's popped the big question; you've said yes. He's bought the ring; you've popped it on your finger. Now what?

Obviously, you have already told your parents and made your engagement official, announcing it in the local paper and on social media channels.

Here's a list of things to do. Mark them onto a calendar and make them a priority.

♥ Choose a date:

On a calendar, pick the most suitable dates for your wedding. Discuss the pros and cons of these times with your partner and parents, and perhaps your proposed bridal party. Will they be available when you need them?

♥ Pick a location:

This will be determined by several things, such as where you live or where your parents and friends live. Seasonal factors such as settled, warmer weather (or rain) will affect the photography shoots and outside ceremonies. Once you have locked in the time and place, you can begin searching for a suitable venue.

♥ Make a budget:

Sorting out your finances is a touchy topic, but is a vitally important foundation for a successful wedding. Schedule some time to

sit with your sweetheart (and possibly the parents who are paying for your wedding). Do a rough estimate of costs – [use our budget calculator for this](#). Figure out the amount of money you plan to spend. Be realistic, and remember, it's all about love, not money.

♥ Start a guest list:

Begin collecting names, addresses and emails of the folks you want at your wedding reception. This first draft may change over time, depending on the reception venue and available finances.

♥ Begin a beauty programme:

If you're the bride, this is a no-brainer. You can start an exercise routine, and diet, to ensure you look (and feel) your absolute best on the big day. Buy skin-care products, grow your hair long, etc. You know what to do.

But what about your man? The groom needs to look as good as he can on his wedding day. Perhaps a gym membership might be in order?

Regardless of how you approach this, getting in shape will also help you look great for the engagement photo shoot.

SUMMARY

Planning your own wedding can be very exciting, and an activity you can do together with your partner. However, if it all becomes too overwhelming or stressful, I suggest you hire a wedding planner – they do most of the organising. Plus, you can download our free [wedding planning checklist here](#).

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