

congratulations

FROM TAKING *A ring selfie*
TO NARROWING DOWN
THE GUEST LIST,

HERE ARE 8 THINGS TO
DO TO KICKSTART YOUR
wedding planning
PROCESS.

Chalet View

LODGE

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#1

ANNOUNCE AND CELEBRATE YOUR ENGAGEMENT

Once you become engaged, take the day to simply enjoy this special moment between the two of you. Celebrate by going out for a nice dinner or enjoying a good bottle of wine. Once you announce your exciting news, the love will start pouring in, so it's nice to cherish these initial moments of quiet between the two of you.

Start by informing your closest loved ones either in person or on the phone. Once you are sure everyone important has been told of your engagement, then (and only then) consider a fun way to announce via social media. If you are not a social media user, an email or mailed engagement announcement can be another fun way to share in your good news.

#2

DETERMINE A YEAR/TIME OF YEAR TO HOST YOUR WEDDING

You don't have to 100% commit to your date just yet, but at least think about when you would like to host the wedding. Will you be married within this same year, wait one or two, or perhaps even longer? Having a time of year in mind will help you when questions start coming your way about when the wedding will be.

You may opt to host a destination wedding, or have many family and friends who you hope can travel for your wedding. If this is the case, settling on a date sooner rather than later into your planning process will be helpful for all those required to make travel plans.





#3

DISCUSS AND AGREE UPON YOUR WEDDING BUDGET

Before you start any ounce of wedding planning, we encourage you to determine what type of financial commitment you are able to invest in the wedding. This may be a tricky conversation between you and your fiancé, or perhaps it will come easy. Take some time to sit together and determine exactly how much you are both able to invest in the wedding.

Once you have determined your own commitment to the wedding, have that conversation with any family members you think may want to help out with the costs of the wedding. Finances can sometimes be a hard topic to bring up, but you may find it to be a much easier conversation the earlier it is had in your engagement.

#4

ASK YOUR WEDDING PARTY TO STAND BY YOUR SIDE

Your bridal party will play a big role in the planning of your wedding. Ask your wedding party to stand by your side early into the planning process. This will allow your girls to participate in the fun parts of planning a wedding such as shopping for bridesmaid's dresses and floral consultations, while your groomsmen may want to get a head-start on planning that all-important bachelor party!





#5

CONSIDER POSSIBLE VENUES AND LOCATIONS

Once you have landed on a time of year to host your wedding start considering venues in your desired location. Perhaps you are looking for a traditional church ceremony and hotel reception or maybe something a bit outside the box. Spend some time researching potential wedding venues.

You may find that your desired venue has a waitlist or books dates only within a certain timeframe. It's always a good idea to reach out to multiple locations to compare pros and cons when choosing a venue.

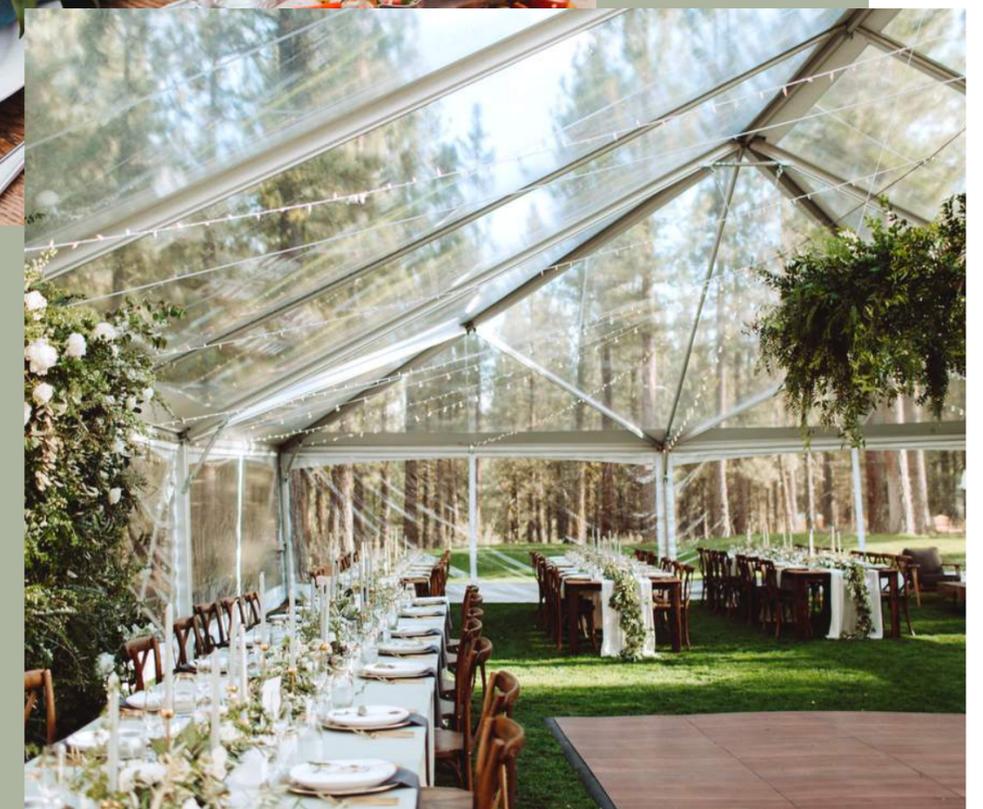
#6

DETERMINE YOUR PRIORITIES

Create a list of both His and Her priorities. What do you each care most about when it comes to the wedding day? You may be surprised what the other has to say.

Determining what is most important early on in wedding planning will steer you in the right direction throughout planning. He may be most excited about the party with great entertainment and late night snacks, while she may care more about the décor and photography.

Setting these priorities early on will also help you decide where to splurge and where to save!





#7

DRAFT A PRELIMINARY GUEST LIST

Quite possibly one of the trickiest tasks when it comes to wedding planning... setting your guest list.

By this point, you should have an idea of where the wedding will be hosted and therefore likely have a max capacity for your venue. Work backwards from here. Make a list of both sides of the family, friends, co-workers and anyone and everyone you can think of who you may like to be at your wedding. From there go back through and see if there are any cuts you can make.

If a parent or family member is assisting you with the costs of the wedding, be sure to include them in this process as well. Our best tip when it comes to making cuts to your guest list is if they don't know you both, or you haven't spoken to them within the last year, there is no need to invite them to the wedding.

#8

BEGIN CONSULTING VENDORS

At this point, you have a wedding date and a potential venue. You have an approximate number of guests you intend to invite and you have a set wedding budget. Now it's time for the fun to begin by browsing potential vendors.

Go back to those priorities you set in #6 and start with those that are most important to you both. Remember, vendors may be booked on your ideal date, so it is always worthwhile considering multiple per category.

Remember, you're only going to do this once, so for those categories that really do matter to you, hiring a professional or investing a bit more is a sure fire way to ensure you will not be disappointed come your wedding day.



MOST IMPORTANTLY

relax

Do something fun, just the two of you. Mini golf, bowling, ice skating, a trip to the beach — whatever floats your boat and brings out the kid in you both. Wedding planning can be insanely stressful from the get-go, so try to find the humor in things and take some time to laugh, reconnect, and remember why you're getting hitched in the first place.

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