

# Bridal Shower Checklist

By Sherry M. Lewis

- Eight to ten weeks before the bridal shower**
  - Guest list** Check with the bride to see who she wants invited - it's her shower and her choice.
  - Budgeting** You'll need funds, so hit up family and friends to show the bride to be a good time.
  - Date** Bridal showers are traditionally a morning or early afternoon affair, and so should be held on a weekend.
  - Location** The shower may be held at home, in the dining hall of a nice restaurant, in a church or many other venues.
- Four to six weeks before the bridal shower**
  - Theme** Ask the bride if she desires a particular theme,. If not, you can get creative.
  - Invitations** Invitations should be pretty and feminine, and request an RSVP as well as include directions to the event.
  - Menu** Call around and select a caterer, and decide on a menu. Brunch items are lovely for morning showers, or afternoon showers may feature teatime treats.
  - Registration** Register the bride online for items the couple will need to set up housekeeping.
- Three weeks before the bridal shower**
  - Flowers** Floral arrangements should be tasteful and understated. Ask the florist about specials.
  - Balloons** You may wish to opt for balloons instead of flowers if the budget is tight or some guests have allergies.
  - Seating** If held at home, the shower may be large enough to require extra tables and chairs to be rented.
  - Cake** A bridal shower cake is traditionally a white cake, but layered cakes with jelly filling are coming in style. Order early.
- Two weeks before the bridal shower**
  - Games** Select fun games to play at the party, and shop for any needed supplies - including pencils and small pads of paper for word games.
  - Prizes/favors** Plan on a small favor bag for each guest to take home. Also have some small prizes for the games.
  - Dishware/flatware** You can go for casual and a quick clean up with paper and plastic, or get out Grandmother's china for a formal bridal shower.
  - Caterer** Double check with the caterer concerning the menu and game-plan for the party.
- One week before the bridal shower**
  - Guests** Contact those who have not RSVPd, and find out if they will be attending.
  - Video/photos** Someone should be in charge of videotaping the event, and another person can take pictures. A professional may be hired if the party is very elaborate.

- Gifts** Purchase gifts for the lucky couple, and check the registry to ensure there are no duplications.
- Decorations** These should be already purchased and ready to put up.
- The day of the bridal shower**
  - Set up** Everything possible should be delivered the day before to make set up stress free.
  - Cake.** If the cake is not being delivered, assign someone to pick it up
  - Flowers** The florist may deliver, or you may have to pick these up as well.
  - Gift list** One person should use the invitation list to note who gave what gift, so thank you notes can be mailed later.
  - Cleanup** Large trash bags should be stocked for discarding trash and wrapping paper during the party, making final clean up easier.