

# LOVE & MARRIAGE

## Pre-wedding celebration planner What. When. And who's throwing it.



Your wedding day is the culmination of several mini celebrations leading up to the highly-anticipated event. Those celebrations include the engagement party, bridal showers, bachelorette party and rehearsal dinner.

Who's keeping track of all these parties? And who throws what? We'll help you sort through the party madness to get the party started.

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### THE ENGAGEMENT PARTY

A cocktail or dinner party to announce the exciting news to family and friends.

#### When

Usually 1-3 months after the proposal. (Although, potentially later if it's a long engagement.)

#### Who's the host

Traditionally, the couple's parents throw the engagement party. However, with more couples living far from their parents, a relative, close friend or even the couple themselves can host the party.

#### \* Party Tip

Create a list of addresses to make it easy for you or your parents to send invitations. And remember, engagement party guests will be expecting a wedding invitation, so if you plan on a small, intimate wedding, make this clear on the invitation. And remember to send invitations out 4-6 weeks ahead of time to give people time to plan.

[See engagement party invitations »](#)

### THE BRIDAL SHOWER

A special gathering to "shower" the bride with congratulatory wishes and gifts. Usually close female friends and family, although co-ed showers are becoming more common.

#### When

Usually 1-2 months before the wedding.

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## THE BRIDAL SHOWER cont.

### Who's the host

The maid of honor, bridesmaids or your mother's close friends.

### \* Party Tip

Create a bridal party [Share site](#) so your girlfriends can coordinate the pre-wedding party planning. Add the names and addresses of guests for the shower host. Then promise not to check the site so you don't ruin any surprises they may have in store. (And don't!) After the event, the bridal shower hosts can add pictures to the Share site for everyone to see.

[See bridal shower invitations »](#)

## THE BACHELORETTE PARTY

The bachelorette party is a chance for some girlfriend time before the wedding.

Make a girls weekend out of it with pamper-filled activities or have a karaoke-style slumber party.

### When

A few weeks before the wedding.

### Who's the host

The maid of honor.

### \* Party Tip

Let your girlfriends know the kind of bachelorette party you'd like to have. If you're in the mood for a low-key spa day then you won't be surprised with a night on the town, and vice versa.

[See bachelorette party invitations »](#)

## THE REHEARSAL DINNER

The dinner party held after the wedding rehearsal. This is a more relaxed event when your families can be together before the wedding.

### When

Following the wedding rehearsal, which is usually the night before the wedding.

### Who's the host

Traditionally the groom's parents throw the rehearsal dinner.

### \* Party Tip

Be sure to have a photographer for the rehearsal dinner party. Nothing formal necessary—a close friend or relative is perfect for this task. There will be some wonderful moments from this event that you'll want captured.

[See rehearsal dinner invitations »](#)