

ideal baby shower

Find amazing baby shower information at <http://www.idealbabyshower.com>

This checklist is for both, the mom-to-be and those helping her with the baby shower. Remember that depending on whether it will be a surprise or not.

1-2 Months before the Baby Shower

- Decide on the date and time for the shower. Parties are usually 2-3 hours long and ideally the shower takes place a month or two before the due date, or at least a month after the baby comes home.
- Talk about the budget for the baby shower. Are you paying for it all, or are others contributing?
- Decide on the number of guests you will be inviting.
- Decide if you will invite men and children.
- Choose a location for the shower. Remember, if it is going to be in a public place you'll need to call in advance for a reservation.
- Decide on a theme of the shower.
- Create a guest list with names and addresses (and e-mail address) of you'd like to invite.
- Plan the games and activities for the shower.
- Make a list of the food and drinks you want to serve and start the grocery list. If you are planning on having it catered, call and make arrangements with the caterer.
- Choose the Invitations based on the shower theme. Provide a map or directions to the location and an RSVP deadline of no later than a week or two before the date.
- Order the party supplies, decorations, party favors, activities and prizes for the games. Be sure to order enough tableware (sometimes it's cheaper to order everything online).
- Plan the menu: A brunch or tea party is traditional; a light dinner works for evening showers. Also consider finger foods, a potluck, or a dessert party. If you have a theme, the foods should reflect it. If you'll be doing the cooking, try to choose dishes that can be made a week ahead and frozen, or at least the day before.

2-3 Weeks prior to the Baby Shower

- Send out an invitation reminder - either via email or phone. Remember to mention how to get to the shower and where guests will be able to park.
- Finalize the menu/ catering.
- Order the cake.
- If you haven't already, order your decorations (banners, balloons, streamers, diaper cakes). You will also need to get the plates, cups, eating utensils and tablecloths.
- Finalize ordering the flowers, rental chairs, etc.

- Plan the games that you will be playing and order your party favors and prizes. It is best to order favors that go along with the theme of the shower. Also, plan more games than you expect to use - in case you run out of activities before the party is over. Make sure to have extra pencils available.
- Arrange for extra help on the party day from friends and relatives.
- Start preparing the "Thank You" notes.

One Week prior to the Baby Shower

- If you requested your guests to RSVP, make a final count, phone calls are ok to those who have yet to RSVP. Confirm reservations, if required.
- If you're hosting the baby shower at a home, begin to clean the home.
- Make sure you have a camera on hand, if its digital, have a full charge (and a spare battery if possible). Make sure to have enough space on the camera memory card. If you want to be original, you can also purchase disposable cameras and leave them around for the guests to take pictures during the shower. This is a great idea if you plan on making a scrapbook afterwards.
- If you are not ordering the cake, it's time to start preparing it.
- Prepare any other foods that can be made ahead of time and store it in the freezer.
- Write the "final" schedule of activities for the party.
- Make sure helium balloons will be filled on the day of the party.
- Ask someone to record the gifts on the gift checklist to make things easier for the mom-to-be when she writes her thank you notes.
- Wrap baby shower game prizes and party favors/ put together the goody bags.
- Prepare a printed baby shower menu, table assignments and name tags.
- Plan to get the gifts home.
- Assign a photographer. You'll want your best shutterbug to take photos or videos.

The Day before the Baby Shower

- Review the games (make sure you know how they are played). Print any baby shower games that are printables, and organize your game supplies and prizes.
- Pick up the cake and any last minute food items - don't forget to get ice.
- Chill the beverages.
- Finish grocery shopping and food preparation.
- If you are baking the baby shower cake, today is the day. You'll also need to finish decorating the cake, or pick up the cake from the bakery.
- "Child-proof" the party area if you plan on having young guests :)
- Set up the party space.
- Prepare a timeline for the day of the baby shower so that you stay on schedule.

THE BIG DAY!

- Have your balloons inflated. If you're hosting the shower home, you may want to place some at the end of your road and driveway to help guide guests to your house.
- Pick up the flowers and/or other centerpieces if you have ordered them.
- Buy plenty of ice for drinks and setup up drinks and cups.
- Prepare foods and beverages that could not be made ahead of time.
- Set out the food, beverages, glasses, and ice.
- Follow your baby shower timeline to stay organized and calm.
- Take plenty of pictures and videos to commemorate this special day. Designate certain guests to take pictures and video of the baby shower.
- Have a notebook handy and make sure someone is assigned to record the gifts and givers. You can use the RSVP list so that it's easier to send the thank you notes. Also, keep a trash bag close by for when the mommy-to-be is opening the baby shower gifts.
- Greet your guests with a big smile. Give them a hug or two. And, most importantly, have a fantastic time! :)