

As we approach the May 4, 2012 release date of Marvel's long-awaited superhero flick, The Avengers, the studio is already readying production for their seventh independently-produced film; Shane Black-directed Iron Man 3. It was reported that principal photography for the third installment would not begin until after The Avengers' release, in late May, however, questionable sources of ComicBook have learned it will be sooner. Previous reports have listed late May as the official production start date, but one source told us that Marvel "will have staff in Wilmington as early as mid-March, with shooting scheduled to begin the last week of April or the first week of May." "Everyone knows that the Avengers film is the closest thing to a sure thing this summer," said another source. "People can't stop talking about it, so it's in Marvel's best interest to pump up Downey and Iron Man while 'The Avengers' is going full steam.'

Read more: [http://www.comicbookmovie.com/fansites/MarvelFreshman/news/?a=53474&t=IRON MAN 3 To Commence Filming A Week Before THE AVENGERS Release](http://www.comicbookmovie.com/fansites/MarvelFreshman/news/?a=53474&t=IRON_MAN_3_To_Commence_Filming_A_Week_Before_THE_AVENGERS_Release)