



Wedding Planning Timeline

The following timeline is designed with the (ideal) timetable of twelve months. If you're planning your wedding on a shorter schedule, just start at the beginning of the list and catch up. Not every item on this timeline will be needed, check the items relevant to your wedding needs.

9-12 Months

- Congratulations! Announce engagement.
- Determine budget and how expenses will be shared.
- Discuss the size, style, location, and scope of the wedding you want.
- Choose a target wedding date and time. (The actual date will depend on venue availability.)
- Create a binder to store and organize ideas, worksheets, receipts, brochures, etc.
- Research and visit wedding and reception sites.
- Start compiling your guest list to estimate head count. Consider budget when thinking about "must-invites" versus "nice-to-invites."
- Research wedding dress & veil styles
- Sign up for Pinterest and create wedding style/idea boards. Start pinning!
- Hire Wedding Planner/Coordinator
- Research Photographer/Videographer
- Choose wedding party: Maid of Honor and Bridesmaids, Best Man and Groomsmen, Flower Girl and Ring Bearer.
- Establish a fitness routine.
- Establish a skin care/beauty routine.

6 TO 9 MONTHS:

- Enroll in wedding/shower gift registries.
- Hire a photographer and a videographer.
- Book an engagement photo session, especially if you plan to include a professional engagement picture with Save-the-Date cards.
- Hire a caterer.

- Hire a florist.
- Decide on music to be played at the ceremony and reception. (Tasks might include booking a band or solo musician, hiring a DJ, choosing significant musical selections, and so on.)
- Reserve a block of hotel rooms for out-of-town guests. (Ask about group rates.)
- Send out Save-the-Date cards. (Include lodging info and maps, as possible.)
- Shop for wedding rings.
- Select and order wedding gown, leaving ample time for delivery and alterations.
- Shop for bridesmaids' dresses.
- Schedule wedding cake design appointments and tastings.
- Start planning your honeymoon.

4 TO 6 MONTHS:

- Finalize the guest list.
- Rent furniture, linens, ceremony items, serving wear etc.
- Order invitations and other wedding stationery (i.e., place cards and thank you notes).
- Plan wedding-day beauty preparations; ask your stylist how far in advance they book wedding parties, and whether they are willing to work on the wedding site.
- Finalize all honeymoon plans. If traveling outside the country, arrange for visas, passports, and inoculations.
- Hire your wedding day transportation (carriage, limousine service, etc.).
- Plan the rehearsal dinner.

2 TO 4 MONTHS:

- Obtain a marriage license. Bring all necessary documents.
- Deal with name change documents
- Order tuxedos for the groom and groomsmen.
- Meet with the caterer to go over menus, wine selections, etc.
- Order the wedding cake.
- Book additional vendors; photo booth, Cartoonist, Candy bars, S'more bar etc.
- Start dance lessons
- Order your wedding rings.
- Confirm wedding ceremony and reception music.
- Book a hotel room for the wedding night.
- If you plan to write your own vows, start writing them now.

4 TO 8 WEEKS:

- Send out invitations
- Mail the wedding invitations 8 weeks before your wedding date.
- Do a hair and makeup run-through (including wedding veil, if applicable).
- Confirm all transportation plans.

2 TO 4 WEEKS:

- Work on seating arrangements for the reception.
- Finalize arrangements for out of town attendants and guests.
- Confirm details with the photographer, florist, and other vendors.
- Have final fitting for bridal gown and bridesmaids' dresses.
- Write your rehearsal dinner toast.
- Purchase gifts for the wedding attendants & parents and complete any engravings
- Compile a list of all the wedding vendors and wedding party, with contact information.
- Communicate rehearsal dinner details to those who will attend the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner.
- Consider where bride, groom, and attendants will dress for the ceremony.

1 WEEK:

- Enclose any fees due on the wedding day in envelopes for easy distribution.
- Give the caterer a final head count.
- Appoint a trustworthy person to bring important items (cake knife, toasting glasses, etc.) to the reception.
- Review final details for those in the wedding party.
- Get final beauty treatments (manicure, facial, massage, waxing, brow shaping, etc.)

THE DAY BEFORE THE WEDDING:

- Gather together the following:
 - Something old symbolizing continuity with family and heritage
 - Something new, symbolizing optimism and hope for the new life ahead
 - Something borrowed, an item from a happily married friend or family member
 - Something blue, symbolizing love and fidelity
- Confirm honeymoon arrangements.
- Pack for the honeymoon.
- Enjoy a relaxing day with family and friends.
- Attend the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner; give gifts to attendants.
- Give the rings, and officiant's fee, to the best man.
- Try to get some rest

WEDDING DAY:

- Post wedding announcements in the mail.
- Relax and remain calm.
- Remember to eat something.
- Allow at least two hours for getting dressed.
- ENJOY THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EVENT!