

# Wedding Planning Timeline

A SUPER HELPFUL CHECKLIST  
AND STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO  
PLAN YOUR BIG DAY



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## WHEN YOU GET ENGAGED

- Settle on your budget.
- Start gathering names and addresses for your guest list.
- Narrow down your potential date to two or three.
- Research locations for your wedding venue.
- Create a wedding website.

## 12 MONTHS BEFORE

- Hire a photographer. DON'T procrastinate. Many photographers are fully-booked up to a year in advance.
- Begin shopping for wedding dresses.
- Choose your bridal party and attendants.
- Finalize date after considering venue and photographer availability.
- Book a block of hotel rooms for out-of-state guests.

## 11 MONTHS BEFORE

- Plan ceremony and reception decor.
- Set up an appointment with your florist to decide what types of bouquets and centerpieces you need.
- Book your caterer.

## 10 MONTHS BEFORE

- Finalize your guest list
- Set up gift registries.
- Search for an officiant or have a friend or family member get ordained to perform the ceremony.
- Choose ceremony and reception music. Test out your playlist a few times before the big day so you know what music is best during dancing versus dinner time.

## 9 MONTHS BEFORE

- Order your gown and have any necessary alterations done.

## 8 MONTHS BEFORE

- Order hair accessories.
- Order jewelry.
- Plan and book your honeymoon (for international excursions).

## 6 MONTHS BEFORE

- Edit, proof and print your wedding invitations. Don't forget the envelopes and stamps!
- Do a few run-throughs on your hairstyle and makeup so you can test out products and make tweaks to your final look.

## 5 MONTHS BEFORE

- Make arrangements for any rentals items (tables, chairs, linens, etc.) you need.
- Arrange any additional sound equipment you'll need to provide music for the ceremony and reception.

## 4 MONTHS BEFORE

- Choose groom's attire and make necessary alterations.
- Purchase any other bridal accessories including shoes, lingerie and garter.
- Plan and book your honeymoon (for local excursions).
- Send out Save the Date cards.

## 3 MONTHS BEFORE

- Book accommodations for your wedding night.

## 2 MONTHS BEFORE

- Address, stamp and mail your invitations.
- Finalize the menu with your caterer. Don't forget drinks! If alcohol is not included in your catering bill, ask about bringing in your own.

## 6 WEEKS BEFORE

- Purchase wedding bands.
- Confirm number of bouquets, centerpieces and boutonnieres with florist.

## 4 WEEKS BEFORE

- Finish any DIY projects.

## 2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Get your local marriage license lined up.
- Create a wedding day schedule and pass it out to important parties (including photographer).
- Give a final guest head count to the caterer.
- Finalize seating chart.
- Confirm all vendors' arrival or delivery times on the wedding day.

## HAPPY WEDDING DAY!

- Have a trusted friend or family member handle checks for vendors to be paid on the wedding day.