

18 MONTH

WEDDING PLANNING TIMELINE

 *Let's plan this thing!*

THE WEDDING OF



DATE

LOCATION

18+ MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

CHECKLIST

- Get Engaged!**
Yes, before you start planning your wedding, you should probably complete this step!
- Choose A Date Range**
Consider months, seasons, special dates, and any dates you want to avoid.
- Choose Colors/Theme**
Having an idea of the colors & theme that you want will help you select your venue & all of your vendors.
- Start Your Wedding Binder**
If you're more of a pen-and-paper type of organizer, print all of your important documents & keep them together. If not, be sure to use a digital folder!
- Preliminary Guest List**
Get a general idea of how many people you want at your wedding. This will help you when looking for venues & vendors
- Early Vendor Search**
Start searching for your vendors and booking consultation calls to learn more about their services.
- Start Pinning Decor Inspo**
If you didn't already start as soon as you had a ring on your finger, now is the time to get an idea of your vision.
- Plan Engagement Party**
You're engaged! Time to celebrate! Try to plan your party within 2 months of your engagement (before it becomes old news!).

16 TO 17 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

CHECKLIST

- Tour & Book Venues**
Tour & book venues for both your ceremony & reception if they won't be at the same place.
- Book Day-Of Vendors**
Start with hiring the most in-demand vendors who can only be at one wedding at a time.
 - Caterer**
 - Photographer**
 - Videographer**
 - Planner / Coordinator**
 - DJ or Musicians (or both!)**
 - Hair Stylist**
 - Make-Up Artist**
 - Officiant**
 - Bartender**
 - Florist**
- Book Engagement Session with Photographer**
Your photographer might include an engagement session in your wedding package. Be sure to take advantage of that!

14 TO 15 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

CHECKLIST

- Select Your Wedding Party**
Ask your friends & family to be your bridesmaids & groomsmen!

- Create Wedding Website**
There is so much you can do with a wedding website to keep your guests informed throughout the entire planning process!

12 TO 13 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

CHECKLIST

Finalize Your Guest List

Have a more solidified list of people you want at your wedding so you can send out save the date cards.

Browse Designs & Order Save the Dates with Stationer

Start thinking about Save the Date cards & get to ordering!

Start Dress Shopping & Order Your Dress

It's finally time to get into those wedding dresses! If you are shopping at a local boutique, try to order 12 months out so you have plenty of time to get your dress & make alterations.

Hire Other Vendors

There are a few more vendors that we need to take care of...

Bakery

Stationer

Transportation

Rentals (Event and/or Decor)

Hotel Block

10 TO 11 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

CHECKLIST

Shop for Bridesmaid Dresses & Order Gowns

Take your bridesmaids to get their dresses to ensure they have plenty of time to make alterations after they arrive.

Start Planning Honeymoon

Start figuring out a budget and consider where you want to go, accommodations, and flights.

Mail Your Save the Dates

Get those Save the Dates in the mail so your guests can block off their calendars!

8 TO 9 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

CHECKLIST

Choose Menu Options with Caterer

If you're having a plated meal, you will want to have this chosen before you send out your invitations.

Browse Designs & Order Invitations with Stationer

There are so many options for invitation suites. Be sure to sit down with your stationer to discuss all of the details.

6 TO 7 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

CHECKLIST

- Buy Wedding Rings**
Time to get those wedding rings & keep them in a safe place!
- Create Rehearsal Guest List**
Determine who you want & who needs to be at the rehearsal and the dinner that follows.
- Book Rehearsal & Dinner Locations**
Your rehearsal should be at your ceremony location, but for the dinner that follows, you can book an event space at a local restaurant or have it at someone's house.
- Choose Music & Playlists**
Choose all of your songs from walking down the aisle to dance music and everything in between. Your DJ will help guide you here.
- Book Hair & Make-Up Trials**
Book your hair and make-up trials for two months out from the wedding. Be sure to book these on the same day so you can see the looks together.

4 TO 5 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

CHECKLIST

- Buy Wedding Accessories**
Buy your shoes, jewelry, perfume, etc. for your wedding day. Don't forget about your partner's accessories too!
- First Fitting in Dress**
This first fitting will be to make any major alterations. Be sure to take your shoes & any undergarments you have!
- Send Rehearsal Invites**
People don't know if they are automatically invited to the rehearsal, so be sure to specify. These can be digital invites to make it easier on you!
- Order Additional Stationery**
Order all of your place cards, seating charts, menus, etc. from your stationer.
- Order Favors For Guests**
If you're going to give your guests favors, now is the time to buy!
- Finalize Floral Order with Florist**
Finalize the types of flowers and the arrangements you need with your florist. The price & availability of flowers fluctuate, so you want to make sure you are getting what you want.
- Open an Event with a Formalwear Rental Shop**
When you open an event at a formalwear rental shop, it makes it easier for the people in your party when they go to get fitted.
- Have Groomsmen Get Fitted**
Have anyone who needs a suit or tux get fitted at the store that you chose to open an event at.

2 TO 3 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

CHECKLIST

Start Your Wedding Day Timeline

If you booked a wedding planner/coordinator, they may be taking care of this or helping you with this, but it is absolutely necessary for everyone to stay on track on the wedding day.

Second Fitting in Dress

Once all of the major alterations are finished, you may have a few smaller touch-ups that need to be made.

Meet with Vendors to Finalize Details

Vendors may start reaching out to you to finalize all of their details, but you might want to check-in now if they haven't.

Meet with Officiant to Finalize Ceremony

Go through your ceremony with your officiant to finalize all of the readings.

Wedding/Bridal Shower

Let the wedding festivities begin!

Create Floor Plan with Venue

Meet with your venue to discuss how many tables & chairs you need & how you want them set up.

Mail Invitations & Receive RSVPs

Mail or send your invitations about 2 months before the wedding and have the RSVP date for 1 month before the wedding.

Buy Gifts for VIPs

This might include your wedding party, your parents, and most importantly, your partner!

Hair & Make-Up Trial

Make sure you like the styles you've chosen & be sure to change anything you don't.

Buy Special Event Insurance

Cover your a**! This is a huge day & you've put a lot of time & money into it. Protect it!

1 MONTH BEFORE THE WEDDING

CHECKLIST

- Final Dress Fitting**
Make sure everything fits & take your dress home!
- Go Through RSVP List**
Touch base personally with any guests you haven't heard from to get an accurate guest list for your caterer and venue.
- Finalize Guest Count with Important Vendors**
Make sure you give your final guest count to your venue, caterer, and anyone else asking for it after all of your RSVPs have been received.
- Create Seating Chart**
Once you have all of your RSVPs, you can create your seating chart!
- Meet with Select Vendors at the Venue**
Do a final walk-through with your planner, venue manager, and anyone else who wants to join to get familiar with the set-up.
- Finalize Day-Of Timeline**
Make sure all of your vendors arrival/departure/drop-off/pick-up times are in your final timeline as well as all important events and places.
- Write Your Vows**
Be sure to write your vows. Once you're up in front of all of your friends and family, everything you tried to memorize will be out the window!
- Final Vendor Check-In**
Make sure all of the vendors confirm the times & places that you have on the timeline.
- Finalize Bar Menu**
You may have already done this with your caterer, but if you have an independent bartender, be sure to connect with them.
- Apply for Your Marriage License**
Check with your county's laws for marriage license timeline.

2 WEEKS BEFORE THE WEDDING

CHECKLIST

- Hair Cut & Color**
Freshen up your hair cut & color with your favorite stylist!
- Create Your Wedding Day Emergency Kit**
Get together all of the little things you think you might need on your wedding day. It is better to be over-prepared than not prepared enough!
- Confirm Transportation Schedule**
Be sure the transportation company you booked knows exactly what times and locations they need to be on your wedding day.
- Bachelor(ette) Parties**
Time to get together with some of your favorite people and have your last celebration as a fiance(e)!

WEEK OF THE WEDDING

CHECKLIST

- Send Vendors Final Timeline**
Once your wedding day timeline is finalized, send it out to all of your vendors so all important people are on the same page. Your planner may do this for you if you have one.
- Confirm Wedding Party Roles, Times & Tasks**
Your wedding party may get lost in the celebration. Make sure both the bridesmaids and groomsmen know all of their tasks and times for the wedding weekend.
- Pack for Honeymoon**
If you are leaving shortly after your wedding day, you may want to pack ahead of time.
- Pick Up Formalwear**
Have anyone who rented a tux or suit pick it up.
- Assign Someone to Return Formalwear Rentals**
Assign one of the groomsmen to return everyone's rentals.
- Assign Someone to be Responsible for Cards & Gifts**
Do not ask a vendor to do this. Ask a trusted family member or friend to pick up all of your cards and gifts and put them somewhere for safe keeping.
- Get a Massage**
It's about time you get a relaxing massage! You've been planning like crazy for what feels like forever!

WEDDING EVE

CHECKLIST

- Get a Mani-Pedi**
Get all of the girls together for a mani-pedi day!
- Rehearsal & Dinner**
Your rehearsal dinner should happen the night before the wedding. This will keep everything fresh in everyone's mind for the wedding day!
- Give Your Marriage License to your Officiant at your Rehearsal**
- Hand Out Wedding Party Gifts**
The rehearsal dinner is a great time to do this!
- Give Out Emergency Numbers**
You do NOT want people texting and calling you on your wedding day. Give everyone a number of a trusted person they can contact if they have questions.
- Go to Bed Early**
Get some sleep! Tomorrow is a big day!

WEDDING DAY

CHECKLIST

Give Gifts to Partner & Parents

Give your special gifts to the most special people.

Give a Trusted Person the Task of Distributing Final Payments & Gratuities

If you have a planner, this is the best person to hand this task off to, If not, a parent or someone who is staying sober is probably the best bet!

Rings

Make sure the appropriate people have your rings.

GET MARRIED!!!

The moment we've all been waiting for...

POST-WEDDING

CHECKLIST

- Honeymoon**
Enjoy your first trip together as a married couple!
- Write & Send Thank You Cards**
Be sure you give thanks to all of the people who helped celebrate your love.
- Confirm That Your Officiant Send in Your Marriage License**
This is the only way to ensure you have a legal marriage!
- Write Vendor Reviews**
Reviewing your vendors is a huge step that often gets overlooked! Remember when you were planning & read through dozens of reviews to find the perfect vendors? Help other couples find their perfect match by writing a raving review!
- Start the Process of Changing Your Name**
Start at the social security office & go from there!