



12+ Months Before

- Start a wedding folder or binder.
- Decide on your wedding date and time.
- Gather inspiration.
- Choose a color palette. Browse our color palettes for inspiration.
- Create a budget.
- Pick your wedding party.
- Create your guest list.
- Hire a wedding planner. Browse our Event Planners & Designers to find your perfect match.
- Reserve your ceremony and reception venue(s). Browse our Venues to find the right location to say I Do.
- Research vendors. Photographer, videographer, band/DJ, florist, caterer, officiant, etc. Our Vendor Guide features wedding vendors locally to help you.
- Take engagement photos. Browse our Photographers to find the right one.
- Throw an engagement party. Register for gifts beforehand if needed.

12 to 9 Months Before

- Hire your vendors. Photographer, videographer, band/DJ, florist, caterer, officiant, etc. Our Vendor Guide features local wedding vendors.
- Purchase your wedding dress.
- Think about the menu you'd like to have for your reception.
- Decide on the type of entertainment you'd like.
- Envision your dream floral decor.
- Reserve a hotel block for out-of-town guests.

9 to 6 Months Before

- Hire ceremony and reception musicians.
- Purchase your invitations.
- Start planning your honeymoon
- Order your bridesmaids' dresses.
- Order and send out your save-the-dates. It's a good idea to send these out 6 months before your wedding. If you're planning a destination wedding or plan to have a lot of out-of-town guests, you can send them 8 months before to be courteous.
- Draft your wedding day timeline.

6 to 4 Months Before

- Attend pre-marriage counseling if needed.

- Create your rehearsal dinner guest list.
- Book your rehearsal and rehearsal dinner venue(s).
- Send the bridal shower guest list to the host of the shower.
- Check on the status of your invitations.
- Envision your dream wedding cake. Hire a cake designer.
- Book your hair and makeup artists. Do a trial run with a few stylists to find the right one for you.
- Hire wedding transportation. Think about the wedding party and out-of-town guests
- Purchase wedding accessories. Buy your shoes, undergarments, hair pieces, jewelry, etc
- Have a dress fitting.
- Purchase your wedding rings.
- Shop for men's formal wear.
- Renew or get passports if necessary. If you're planning a destination wedding or honeymooning in another country, don't overlook this important step!

3 Months Before

- Finalize your wedding menu and flower selection.
- Order your wedding cake if you haven't already.
- Book childcare for guests' kids.
- Finalize your guest list.
- Order additional stationery. Menu cards, programs, escort cards, etc.
- Attend your wedding or bridal shower(s).
- Order favors. Decide whether or not you'd like to give your guests favors.
- Meet with the officiant. Finalize readings and decide on anything else that will be presented during the ceremony.
- Make a list of who will be giving toasts.
- Groom: rent your formal wear.
- Finalize your wedding day timeline.
- Send the final wedding day timeline to your vendors.

2 Months Before

- Check in and confirm details with all of your vendors.
- Meet with the photographer. It's a good idea to meet at the venue if possible so the photographer can start planning shots.
- Review your playlist with the bandleader or DJ. Provide a 'don't play' and 'must play' list, if any.
- Do a hair and makeup trial run. Decide on the style and look you'd like for your big day.
- Write your vows.
- Take dance lessons. If you're not comfortable on the dance floor or want to do an elaborate dance with your spouse, it's a good idea to take dance lessons to be prepared.
- Write and send thank you notes for shower gifts and early wedding gifts received.
- Purchase gifts for your parents, wedding party, and each other.
- Send out your invitations. It's recommended to send these 8 weeks before your wedding, and have the RSVP cutoff at 3 weeks after the postmark date.
- Submit your wedding announcement to the newspaper.

1 Month Before

- Check in and confirm details with all of your vendors.
- Obtain a marriage license.
- Deliver your 'must-have' shot list to the photographer and videographer.
- Mail out your rehearsal dinner invitations.
- Confirm the bridesmaids are ready and have their dresses.
- Email and print directions for transportation drivers.
- Plan your reception seating chart.
- Purchase/collect your something old, something new, borrowed, and blue.
- Purchase your guest book, toasting flutes, cake servers, unity candle, etc.
- Plan the welcome baskets.
- Purchase alcohol, if needed, and finalize your signature cocktails.

2 Weeks Before

- Check RSVPs. Follow up with any guests you haven't heard from.
- Deliver the finalized playlist to the bandleader or DJ.
- Bride: Get your hair cut and colored.
- Put together a bridal emergency kit.
- Enjoy your bachelor and bachelorette parties.

1 Week Before

- Check in and confirm details with all of your vendors.
- Confirm roles and duties with the wedding party. Give them the wedding day timeline so they know what's expected.
- Delegate any small wedding-day tasks you can to friends and family.
- Break in your shoes!
- Book a spa appointment. Enjoy a massage and facial to decompress.
- Send the final guest list/head count to the caterer and/or venue.
- Assemble and distribute your welcome baskets.
- Pack for your honeymoon.
- Connect with the venue manager. Provide them with any special requests for vendors, i.e. setup spaces needed, cake table, DJ table, etc.
- Give the ceremony and reception venue manager(s) a schedule of vendor delivery and setup times. It's also a good idea to include a contact name and phone number for each vendor.
- Groom: Get your hair cut.

2 to 3 Days Before

- Check in and confirm details with all of your vendors.
- Get the wedding dress pressed or steamed, if needed.
- Groom: Have your final fitting and pick up your formal wear.
- Have the Best Man check in with all groomsmen. Confirm they have attended their final fittings and have their formal wear.

- Determine the wedding party positions for the ceremony and order for the processional and recessional.
- Give the place cards, table cards, menus, favors, etc. to the caterer or reception venue manager.
- Call the transportation companies to confirm pickup times and locations.
- Deliver the welcome baskets to the hotel concierge with names and delivery instructions.

The Day Before

- Give all vendors an emergency number to call on the day of the wedding. Designate someone you trust to handle all questions and concerns.
- Write final checks for vendors. Give them to the Best Man along with tip envelopes to be handed out at/after the wedding.
- Assign someone to pack up the gifts/belongings after the reception.
- Assign someone to take the Bride's gown to cleaning and to return the Groom's rentals.
- Rehearse the ceremony.
- Drop off ceremony accessories at the venue.
- Give the marriage license to the officiant.
- Get a manicure and pedicure.
- Attend your rehearsal dinner.
- Present the wedding party with gifts at the rehearsal dinner.
- Go to bed early!

The Day Of

- Present parents and each other with gifts.
- Give the wedding bands to the Best Man and Maid of Honor.
- Give the Best Man the officiant's fee envelope to be presented after the ceremony.
- Introduce the reception venue manager to your designated contact person for questions or concerns.
- Assign someone you trust to be the photographer's contact. This person can help the photographer gather necessary people for photos and point out who is who.

After the Wedding

- Write and send thank you notes.
- Complete your registry. Exchange or return unwanted or duplicate gifts.
- Preserve your wedding dress.
- Follow up with your photographer and videographer for albums, DVDs, etc.
- Get your name changed.