



The Ultimate Wedding Planning Timeline & Checklist

The ultimate checklist to help guide you through the wedding planning process. Not everything on this list is going to apply to every wedding, but this is a great place to start. I want this to be fun and enjoyable each step of the way so you can spend less time stressed and more time LIVIN YO LIFE!! :)

12 months:

- Choose your date!
- Talk budget
- Decide on your wedding style
- Make your guest list
- Explore ceremony & reception venue options
- Start assembling your dream team of wedding pros
- Engagement photo session
- Create wedding style mood boards on Pinterest
- Choose wedding party
- Create a wedding website
- Begin browsing Save the Dates
- Order Save the Dates
- Begin researching wedding dresses & veil style

11-10 months:

- Hire vendors
- Reserve ceremony & reception venues
- Purchase wedding dress, veil , undergarments
- Choose bridal party attire & accessories
- Book Officiant

9-8 months:

- Find hotels at different prices for guests
- Browse wedding invitation designs
- Refine guest list
- Create your gift registry
- Begin planning that honeymoon!
- Mail Save the Dates

7-6 months:

- Reserve Rentals
- Book transport to & from venues
- Research wedding day hair & makeup
- Meet with officiant to discuss ceremony rundown
- Choose cake style & schedule tastings
- Hire ceremony musicians
- Decide groomsmen attire
- Purchase wedding bands
- Personalize & order wedding invite samples
- Order wedding invite suite if samples approved
- Order thank you cards

5-4 months:

- Order wedding cake
- Meet with Florist
- Schedule dress fittings
- Book honeymoon flights & hotels
- Book room for the wedding night
- Prepare a playlist for the DJ/Band
- Finalize guest list
- Compile rehearsal dinner guest list
- Book rehearsal dinner venue
- Order rehearsal dinner invites or create a private facebook page with details

3 months:

- Hair & Make up trial
- Book photobooth rental
- Finalize readers & readings
- Mail wedding invites
- Finalize honeymoon plans & ensure all documents are in order
- Plan reception seating
- Purchase toasting flutes, serving pieces, guestbook, flower basket, & ring bearer pillow
- Finalize reception menu with caterer
- Order menu cards

2 months:

- Begin writing vows
- Review ceremony details with officiant
- Finalize seating arrangements
- Buy wedding party gifts
- Apply for marriage license
- Purchase wedding guest gifts
- Layout content for the wedding programs
- Finalize fittings for wedding party and parents
- Create wedding day timelines and send out vendors, officiant and wedding party
- Decide on "something old, something new something borrowed & something blue"
- Book spa beauty & beauty treatments for you and your bridal party.

1 month:

- Finalize timeline w/planner & photographer
- Give photographer & videographer your image & video requests
- Finalize dress fitting
- Pick up marriage license
- Call vendors to confirm date, time, location
- Confirm honeymoon reservation
- Pick up rings
- Order wedding programs
- Write thank you notes as gifts are received

2 weeks:

- Begin breaking in wedding shoes
- Make arrangements for the caring of pets & plants while on honeymoon
- Follow up with guests who have not RSVP'd
- Give final guest count to caterer
- Send playlists to DJ/Band/Ceremony musicians
- Get haircut & freshen up color
- Update registries
- Send directions to wedding day transportation driver
- Delegate someone to return tuxes, rentals & tend to wedding dress post wedding day

1 week:

- Prepare wedding day emergency kit
- Give readers their scripts
- Prepare final payments to vendors & cash tips for service personnel
- Lay out wedding clothes and gather accessories

Day Before:

- Gather all details you'll want photographed tomorrow into a bag/basket (rings, jewelry, invites, cufflinks, perfumes, shoes, etc.)
- Treat yo'self to a mani/pedi & massage
- Attend wedding rehearsal
- HAVE SO MUCH FUN!!
- Get to bed early and try to get some Z's

Day-of:

- Eat some brekkie
- Stay off your feet as much as possible
- Allow plenty of time to get ready
Drink water! HYDRATION IS KEY!
- Take dress & veil out of the bag & steam if needed
- Give officiant fee & wedding rings to the best man
- Exchange notes/gifts with fiancé
- Relax, smile & soak up every moment of the big day!

Beyond the wedding

- Ensure tuxes & all rentals have been returned
- Get wedding dress to the cleaners
- Send out thank you cards within a month of your wedding day
- Talk to your photographer about ordering prints & albums

Holy moly that was a lot!! I realize that not everything on this list is going to apply to every wedding, but it sure is a great starting place. When in doubt please ask for help! Delegate different tasks to family & friends. Vendors like me have done this a time or two, and I know most of us are more than happy to help ya out! And remember that YOU'VE GOT THIS!

Have less than 12 months to plan?

If you're working with a shorter engagement time, pulling off your dream wedding is more than possible and can be done in a stress-free matter as well. If you 6 months to plan before the big day, then condense this list and try to get everything done at the 12 month mark done in your first month, and you should be pretty much on track for most everything else.

Need more help?

I'm here for you!! If you need any extra tips & tricks, vendor recommendations, help creating your wedding timeline or a wedding photographer-- I've got you! Fill out the contact form on my website and I'd be more than happy to help you create the wedding of your dreams!

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