

Wedding Planning Calendar

9-12 months prior to the wedding:

- ♡ Announce your engagement
- ♡ Consider the season/time you'd like your wedding to take place
- ♡ Determine what style of wedding you'd like (large, small, casual, formal, etc.)
- ♡ Decide how expenses will be shared between participating parties
- ♡ Create a budget ([see budget planner](#))
- ♡ Decide on the number of guests you'll invite (this may affect your venue selection)
- ♡ Have families compile their invitation lists and corresponding addresses
- ♡ Finalize wedding date, time, and location (if outdoors, prepare a back-up plan)
- ♡ Hire a wedding coordinator
- ♡ Send save-the-date cards if desired
- ♡ Find and reserve a ceremony & reception site (some venues book as far as two years in advance) and verify handicap accessibility, if necessary
- ♡ Select and book an officiant to perform the ceremony
- ♡ Choose your attendants
- ♡ Select a color scheme
- ♡ Begin shopping for bridal gown, headpiece, and shoes

6-9 months prior to the wedding:

- ♡ Order bridal gown and all accessories; schedule fittings
- ♡ Shop for bridesmaids' dresses and shoes
- ♡ Interview potential caterers (often this is determined with venue selection)
- ♡ Book selected caterer once approximate guest count is known
- ♡ Plan the menu
- ♡ Select and order beverages not provided by caterer
- ♡ If having a religious ceremony, meet with officiant to arrange any required pre-marital counseling
- ♡ Give thought to any ethnic or cultural traditions you wish to include in your ceremony
- ♡ Consult with parents to determine if hotel accommodations are needed for out-of-town guests
- ♡ Interview and book a photographer and/or videographer
- ♡ Select and book a DJ or musicians for the ceremony and/or reception
- ♡ Compile a list of favorite songs and music selections for special dances
- ♡ Sign up for dance lessons
- ♡ Interview pastry chefs and sample cakes
- ♡ Order wedding cake and send deposit to finalize the contract
- ♡ Interview and book a florist and any other decorators you are using ([see flower planner](#))
- ♡ Plan & book the honeymoon (if traveling internationally update passports, visas, and vaccinations, and remember, the name on your passport should match the name on your ticket)

4-6 months prior to the wedding:

- ♡ Order invitations, thank you cards, napkins
- ♡ Book calligrapher, if using
- ♡ Order bridal attendants' attire
- ♡ Select and purchase/reserve the groom's attire
- ♡ Choose and purchase your wedding rings
- ♡ Ask the bride's mother to shop for her outfit
- ♡ Reserve wedding night transportation for the two of you (ceremony to reception, then to accommodations)
- ♡ Book wedding night accommodations for yourselves
- ♡ Plan the wedding rehearsal (date/time) and reserve a dining location, if desired
- ♡ Register for gifts
- ♡ Call and confirm your gown/headpiece order
- ♡ Buy lingerie and stockings to go with gown
- ♡ Arrange for care of children and/or pets during wedding day (and during honeymoon, if needed)
- ♡ Rent any props (pillars, arches, tents, tables, chairs, dishware, etc) for the ceremony or reception
- ♡ Consider your rehearsal attire and shop if necessary

2-4 months prior to the wedding:

- ♡ Ask the groom's mother to choose her attire
- ♡ Have your first dress fitting
- ♡ Book hairstylist & make-up artist; schedule hair and cosmetic "rehearsals" with veil & accessories
- ♡ Break in your shoes around the house; try on all your accessories to check clasps, etc.
- ♡ Urge ushers and groomsmen to be fitted and reserve their attire
- ♡ Finalize details of the menu with the caterer
- ♡ Discuss ceremony with officiant, choose readings, write vows (if you choose)
- ♡ Select or design ceremony and reception programs
- ♡ Purchase gifts for the wedding party
- ♡ Select, order/purchase, and assemble favors for guests
- ♡ Purchase a guest book (or alternative) and select someone to attend to it at the wedding
- ♡ Purchase accessories not provided by vendors (ring pillow, candles, cake knife, toasting goblets, garter, etc.)
- ♡ Address invitations and weigh one at post office to determine postage
- ♡ Prepare any maps, accommodation, or sight-seeing information to be included with invitations
- ♡ Prepare a list of desired photos for the photographer ([see photo planner](#))

6-8 weeks prior to the wedding:

- ♡ Apply for a marriage license ([see marriage license information](#))
- ♡ Update the beneficiary on your life insurance policy
- ♡ Send change-of-address information to the post office
- ♡ Mail the invitations
- ♡ Finalize menu and details for rehearsal dinner
- ♡ Have the final fitting for bridal gown
- ♡ Have attendants' gowns fitted
- ♡ Arrange to have gowns pressed and establish pick-up time with the shop
- ♡ Write thank-you notes ([see thank you tips](#)) for shower gifts (and wedding gifts, as they arrive)
- ♡ Pick up wedding bands
- ♡ Arrange for gown, bouquet, and/or cake preservation, if desired
- ♡ Confirm honeymoon travel reservations; provide itinerary to someone close in case of emergency
- ♡ Arrange for out-of-town guests to be met at the airport and transported to their accommodations

2-6 weeks prior to the wedding:

- ♡ Confirm hotel reservations for out-of-town guests; prepare any welcome notes or gifts
- ♡ Confirm reservations for wedding night accommodations
- ♡ Confirm musicians and/or disc jockey; provide list of musical requests
- ♡ Confirm photographer/videographer; provide list of must-have shots; set photography start time
- ♡ Consult with venue coordinator for cake and flower delivery times
- ♡ Confirm cake delivery with pastry chef
- ♡ Confirm floral delivery with florist
- ♡ Confirm transportation arrangements
- ♡ Begin to plan seating arrangements for reception guests
- ♡ Make place cards for guests
- ♡ Write toasts for the rehearsal dinner and wedding reception ([see toast tips](#))
- ♡ Contact local newspaper about requirements for a wedding announcement
- ♡ Prepare and mail final payments to all vendors
- ♡ Write out any checks/thank-yous to be distributed at the event and put them in sealed envelopes
- ♡ Assign someone to distribute checks at the event
- ♡ Ask someone to take charge of transporting gifts at the end of the event
- ♡ Determine if one of your health plans has better couple coverage; make arrangements accordingly
- ♡ Arrange for someone to return rented items

1-2 weeks prior to the wedding:

- ♡ Contact guests who have not responded
- ♡ Print the ceremony and reception programs
- ♡ Finalize seating plan ([see seating arrangement planner](#))
- ♡ Notify caterer of guest count; finalize all details
- ♡ Select gifts and/or write notes of thanks to parents
- ♡ Pick up wedding gown
- ♡ Assemble in one place everything you'll need at the ceremony/reception (remember the rings)
- ♡ Give your marriage license to the officiant
- ♡ Review details, directions, and timetables with all vendors; provide a contact name & number
- ♡ Review directions & timetables with attendants and family members (including rehearsal information)
- ♡ Begin packing for the honeymoon

1-2 days prior to the wedding:

- ♡ Confirm transportation arrangements for ceremony and reception
- ♡ Give announcement to a trusted party to mail after the wedding
- ♡ Give tip and payment envelopes to the individual who will distribute them
- ♡ Have tuxedo(s) picked up, as necessary
- ♡ Enjoy a manicure and pedicure
- ♡ Greet your friends and guests as they arrive
- ♡ Rehearse the ceremony
- ♡ Enjoy the rehearsal dinner; give gifts to the wedding party and parents

On your wonderful wedding day:

- ♡ Eat something, even if it's only a small bit, for breakfast
- ♡ Gather all your previously assembled belongings and head for the venue, allowing plenty of time
- ♡ Wear a top that buttons to preserve your completed hair and make-up
- ♡ Relax and enjoy your day and your guests!

When you return from the honeymoon:

- ♡ Have your gown cleaned
- ♡ Write thank-yous in a timely fashion ([see thank you tips](#))
- ♡ Attend to any financial and personal identification records

♡ ***...and live happily ever after!***