

The ultimate wedding checklist

You're at last engaged and now is the time for all the planning to begin. Our steps to planning a wedding will make the journey much simpler, smoother and streamlined for you. We help you to manage your time and to-do list—right up until your big day and beyond. If you're organized, you'll have more time to enjoy the process and each other!

18 to 6 months to go

- ☐ Meet with family members who are sharing expenses to discuss financial expectations
- ☐ Work out your budget and establish your top priorities
- ☐ Choose a date (or up to 3 so you can be flexible)
- ☐ Compile your preliminary guest list
- ☐ Explore ceremony and reception venue options and reserve your date
- ☐ Consider purchasing a wedding insurance
- ☐ Research wedding photographers, wedding videographers, bands and/or DJs, caterers, florists, etc.
- ☐ Consider potential wedding planners and day-of coordination help
- ☐ Book an engagement photo session if you plan to include a professional engagement picture with save-the-date cards

10 to 8 months to go

- ☐ Design, order and send out save-the-date-cards
- ☐ Book ceremony officiant
- ☐ Contact decor companies if you need to rent anything for ceremony
- ☐ Book/reserve all the required vendors (photographers, wedding videographers, bands and/or DJs, caterers, florists)
- ☐ Research and reserve accommodations for guests
- ☐ Say yes to the dress - many boutiques consider under six months a 'rush order' and will apply a fee



6 months to go

- ☐ Meet with officiant to discuss plans for ceremony
- ☐ Choose the members of your wedding party
- ☐ Book the rehearsal dinner and the venue where you will have it
- ☐ Enrol on wedding and shower gift registries
- ☐ Explore wedding day hair and make-up styles
- ☐ Start planning your honeymoon
- ☐ Download [The Big Day countdown app](#)

5 months to go

- ☐ Design and order invitations
- ☐ Start gathering addresses for guest list or set up a wedding website - create spreadsheet for RSVPs
- ☐ Choose your music playlist for your reception
- ☐ Book entertainers, photos booths, etc.
- ☐ Finalize the honeymoon and accommodations
- ☐ Make sure you have all your legal documents needed for your honeymoon. Many countries will not allow you entry if your passport is due to expire in less than 6 months, so look at the expiration dates.
- ☐ Book hair and make-up vendors

4 months to go

- ☐ Send invitations to guests
- ☐ Finalize your menu
- ☐ Finalize your flowers
- ☐ Order favors and plan your welcome baskets
- ☐ Ask those whom you'd like to make toasts to participate
- ☐ Buy your underwear
- ☐ Schedule your second dress fitting



- ☐ Purchase groom's attire
- ☐ Shop for bridesmaids' and groomsmen's outfits
- ☐ Finalize the order of your ceremony
- ☐ Finalize the order of your reception
- ☐ Get menu cards and programs for the ceremony printed

3 months to go

- ☐ Touch base with all vendors
- ☐ Do trials with hair and make-up vendors
- ☐ Send reminders for venues and officiant
- ☐ Confirm all wedding decor ideas, bouquets, centrepieces
- ☐ Meet with your photographer and videographer
- ☐ Review the playlist with your DJ or band
- ☐ Shop for and purchase your wedding rings and proofread your engraving

2 months to go

- ☐ Get marriage license (and blood tests if required by your state)
- ☐ Time for the bachelorette and bachelors parties
- ☐ Try to get as many payments done as you can to the vendors and rentals
- ☐ Attend final dress fitting
- ☐ Confirm menu and any dietary requirements with the venue
- ☐ Collect bridesmaid dresses
- ☐ Send song suggestions/playlist to band/DJ
- ☐ So you think you can dance? Consider taking a dance lesson with your fiancé
- ☐ Write thank-you cards for shower gifts and any early wedding gifts received
- ☐ Purchase bridesmaids' gifts
- ☐ Make your "Must-Have Photo List" and send to photographer



1 month to go

- ❑ Track RSVPs and call any guests who have not yet responded
- ❑ Begin breaking in wedding shoes
- ❑ Call vendors to confirm date, times and location
- ❑ Pick up marriage license
- ❑ Get your something old/new/borrowed/blue (if you're doing this tradition)
- ❑ Start writing wedding vows
- ❑ Make sure to also send out your rehearsal dinner invitations to the wedding party, both families parents and the officiant
- ❑ Schedule your final dress fitting

2 weeks to go

- ❑ Make envelopes for payment to vendors and cash tips for service personnel
- ❑ Organise table plan and seating arrangements
- ❑ Attend final meetings with wedding planner and vendors and make any last minute changes if necessary
- ❑ Finalize the vows and readings with the officiant
- ❑ Send directions to wedding day limo/transportation driver
- ❑ Do full wedding dress rehearsal from underwear to veil

1 week to go

- ❑ Make any last minute changes to table/seating plans
- ❑ Give your caterer/venue the final guest count
- ❑ Print place cards, menu cards and table numbers
- ❑ Arrange for delivery of flowers to church/venue/home
- ❑ Arrange for flowers/gifts to be given to parents/grandmother
- ❑ Confirm time the wedding car will pick you up
- ❑ Get spa treatments for you (mani/pedi) and the bridal party
- ❑ Start packing for your honeymoon
- ❑ Go for final groom attire fitting and pick up your formalwear



The day before

- ☐ Lay out wedding clothes
- ☐ Make sure all wedding-day items are packed/laid out and ready to go (Don't forget the rings and marriage license)
- ☐ Give list of suppliers/contact numbers to bridesmaid/groomsman/other contact
- ☐ Assign someone to pack up your gifts/belongings after the reception
- ☐ Prepare wedding day emergency kit (powder, comb, tights...)
- ☐ Enjoy a relaxing day with family and friends
- ☐ Attend the rehearsal dinner; give gifts to attendants
- ☐ Get to bed at a decent hour...you need your beauty sleep tonight

On the wedding day

- ☐ Eat a good breakfast
- ☐ Allow plenty of time for getting ready
- ☐ Take a deep breath and remain calm
- ☐ It's here! Enjoy every single minute

After the wedding

- ☐ Write and send thank-you cards
- ☐ Get wedding dress to preservationist or cleaners
- ☐ Return tuxes, rentals, equipment
- ☐ Keep in touch with your photographer and videographer to work on albums, wedding movies, etc...
- ☐ Enjoy your honeymoon!

