

Wedding Planning Checklist

A month-by-month wedding planning checklist that walks you from engagement through the week of your wedding.

12+ Months Out: Foundation

- ☐ Set your overall wedding budget and agree on who is contributing.
- ☐ Draft a rough guest count to guide venue size and catering.
Even a ballpark number shapes nearly every cost, so settle it early.
- ☐ Choose three or four possible wedding dates.
- ☐ Tour and book your ceremony and reception venues.
- ☐ Decide whether to hire a wedding planner or coordinator.
- ☐ Start a shared folder or binder to keep contracts and ideas in one place.

9 to 11 Months Out: Key Vendors

- ☐ Book your photographer and videographer.
- ☐ Secure your caterer or confirm in-house catering options.
- ☐ Reserve your band or DJ for the reception.
- ☐ Hire your florist and discuss a seasonal palette.
- ☐ Begin shopping for the wedding dress and any attire that needs lead time.
Bridal gowns often take four to six months to order and alter.
- ☐ Send save-the-dates once your date and venue are locked.

6 to 8 Months Out: Details Take Shape

- ☐ Book your officiant and confirm any ceremony requirements.
- ☐ Reserve a block of hotel rooms for out-of-town guests.
- ☐ Order or design your invitation suite.
- ☐ Plan your honeymoon and check passport expiration dates.
- ☐ Choose attire for the wedding party and groom.
- ☐ Register for gifts and set up your wedding website.

3 to 5 Months Out: Locking It In

- ☐ Finalize the menu and schedule a tasting with your caterer.
- ☐ Order the wedding cake or dessert.
- ☐ Choose your ceremony readings, vows, and music.
- ☐ Buy or rent wedding rings and arrange engraving.
- ☐ Book transportation for the couple and guests if needed.
- ☐ Mail invitations six to eight weeks before the date.
Set your RSVP deadline about three weeks before the wedding.

1 to 2 Months Out: Confirmations

- ☐ Apply for your marriage license within the valid window for your state.
- ☐ Attend your final dress fitting and pick up the gown.
- ☐ Confirm details, arrival times, and balances with every vendor.
- ☐ Create the day-of timeline and share it with the wedding party.
- ☐ Build the seating chart once RSVPs are in.
- ☐ Write thank-you notes for any gifts received early.

Week Of: Final Stretch

- ☐ Give your caterer and venue the final guest count.
- ☐ Pick up rentals, attire, and any final orders.
- ☐ Pack an emergency kit and the honeymoon bags.
- ☐ Confirm hair and makeup appointment times.
- ☐ Prepare vendor tips and final payments in labeled envelopes.
Hand the envelopes to a trusted person to distribute on the day.
- ☐ Run through the timeline at the rehearsal and delegate day-of tasks.
- ☐ Step back, rest, and trust your planning.