

Wedding Planning Checklist

From booking your venue to creating your registry of gifts, you'll have plenty of wedding-related tasks to handle. Here is a sample wedding checklist that covers the major items, along with a suggested timeline. Remember to have fun and take time along the way to relax and recharge. You've got a big day – and a bright future – ahead!

16-9 Months Out

- Start looking through magazines and on websites such as Pinterest for inspiration. Put all your ideas in one place, or start your own wedding board.
- Determine your budget. Figure out how much you can spend based on all contributions.
- Choose your wedding party and ask them to participate.
- Start your preliminary guest list.
- Hire a wedding planner if desired.
- Explore ceremony and reception venues, checking on potential dates, and reserve.
- Book your officiant.
- Explore photographers, DJs or bands, florists and caterers.
- Attend engagement parties thrown in your honor.
- Send out save-the-date postcards.

8 Months Out

- Hire your photographer and videographer.
- Book your DJ or band.
- Meet with caterers.
- Order your dress.
- Reserve a block of hotel rooms for out-of-town guests.
- Create your gift registries.
- Launch your wedding website.

6-7 Months Out

- Order invitations.
- Start your honeymoon planning.
- Look for bridesmaid dresses.
- Map out your ceremony with your officiant.
- Choose and book your florist.
- Arrange bridal party transportation.

4-5 Months Out

- Book the rehearsal venue.
- Attend tastings, choose your baker and order your cake.
- Send your guest list to your shower host.
- Order your veil, shoes and other accessories.
- Schedule your first dress fitting.
- Try out makeup and hair artists; book your favorite.
- Choose your music playlist for your reception.

3 Months Out

- Finalize your menu.
- Finalize your flowers.
- Order favors and plan your welcome baskets.
- Ask those whom you'd like to make toasts to participate.
- Finalize your readings and ask those whom you'd like to do them.
- Buy your undergarments.
- Schedule your second fitting.
- Finalize the order of your ceremony.
- Finalize the order of your reception.
- Get menu cards and programs printed.
- Purchase your rings.
- Send your schedule to your vendors.
- Mail your invitations.

2 Months Out

- Touch base with all vendors.
- Meet with your photographer and videographer.
- Review the playlist with your DJ or band.
- Enjoy your shower(s) and your bachelorette party.

1 Month Out

- Track RSVPs.
- Get your marriage license.
- Schedule your final dress fitting.
- Confirm times with all vendors.
- Map out your seating plan.
- Purchase bridesmaids' gifts.
- Write your vows.

Wedding Week

- Send a contact list and timeline to the bridal party.
- Pick up your dress.
- Set aside checks and tips for vendors.
- Book your wedding mani/pedi.
- Drop off welcome baskets.
- Pack for your honeymoon.

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