



12 Months (+) before Wedding

- ✓ Announce your engagement with family and friends
- ✓ Start your wedding guest list; think about whether dates will be invited, and if children will be invited
- ✓ Hire a wedding planner
- ✓ Think about the look and feel of your wedding: style, theme, and/or color choices
- ✓ Start a wedding folder/binder to save and store wedding information and contracts
- ✓ Determine the wedding budget and how expenses will be made/shared. Creation of itemized wedding budget, breakdown suggestion:
 - Ceremony (location, officiant fee, marriage license)
 - Reception (location, catering/food & beverage, wedding cake/dessert, rentals)
 - Wedding Planner or Wedding Coordinator
 - Décor (lighting, flowers, candles, additional design rentals)
 - Music (ceremony, cocktail hour, reception)
 - Photography
 - Videography
 - Paper (save-the-dates, invitations, calligraphy, place cards, table numbers, signs/props)
 - Attire (wedding gown, veil, alterations, accessories, groom's attire)
 - Hair/Make-up
 - Gifts (welcome bags, bridal party gifts, favors)
 - Wedding Rings
 - Other: Honeymoon, Rehearsal Dinner, Brunch
- ✓ Decide how payments will be made, set-up a system to monitor deposits and balances. Consider opening a wedding bank account for expenses and later for wedding gifts.
- ✓ Research venues and set-up site visits with potential ceremony and reception locations

11 Months before Wedding

- ✓ Confirm your venue(s) and wedding date
- ✓ Think about the type of meal you will serve (cocktail hour, buffet dinner, stations or plated meal, dessert options, etc.). Obtain proposals from caterers – unless using the venue.
- ✓ Meet with caterer(s) to discuss proposals; confirm with a caterer and move forward with a contract
- ✓ Research, interview and hire a photographer



- ✓ Schedule engagement photos and consider using one in your save-the-date
- ✓ Ask bridal party members to be in your wedding (if applicable)
- ✓ Create a Pinterest board to save wedding ideas and inspiration

10 Months before Wedding

- ✓ Start looking at wedding Dresses, plan to purchase between 8-10 months out
- ✓ Research, interview and hire a musician/band/DJ for your ceremony and reception
- ✓ Create your wedding website - plan to add wedding information over the next six months, such as engagement photos, transportation/accommodation information, registry, tourist activities, other weekend events, etc.

9 Months before Wedding

- ✓ Shop for potential bridesmaids dresses, plan to purchase between 7-9 months
- ✓ Research, interview and hire a videographer
- ✓ Finalize guest list
- ✓ Start collecting addresses for guests, consider Google Drive to save this information via an excel spreadsheet that can be shared
- ✓ Start the rehearsal dinner invite list

8 Months before Wedding

- ✓ Research, interview and hire a Florist
- ✓ Select hotel for room block - negotiate rate and other services including a bridal suite, rehearsal dinner and/or next-day brunch
- ✓ Research restaurants for rehearsal dinner and obtain quotes
- ✓ Start looking for paper products (save-the-dates, invitations, place cards, programs, signs/props, etc.). Consider working with a designer to customize all paper elements.
- ✓ Create and send save-the-dates (can be sent anytime 12 months to 7 months)



7 Months before Wedding

- ✓ Confirm rehearsal dinner restaurant and details, including whether transportation is required
- ✓ Start researching Honeymoon options, if you plan to go right after the wedding
- ✓ Start your registry *complete a couple months before the bridal shower
- ✓ Research, interview and hire a wedding cake baker/wedding dessert (unless using caterer or not having cake)
- ✓ Mother(s) should purchase wedding attire (consider a bridal salon or department store with a personal shopping service)

6 Months before Wedding

- ✓ Decide when/where to have bridal shower, bachelorette and Bachelor party – let bridal party know to “save the dates” for these pre-wedding events
- ✓ Research hair and make-up artists who will come to home/hotel for getting ready on wedding day; set-up trials (anytime between 6 months and 1 month out)
- ✓ Order invitations, with approximately 10 extra envelopes. Note that the turnaround time may vary per vendor. Suggestion for mailing out the invitations is 8 to 10 weeks before chosen RSVP date.
- ✓ Research and interview a calligrapher for wedding envelopes and place cards

5 Months before Wedding

- ✓ Research alterations options, unless using the bridal salon. Schedule bridal fittings for final 2 months before the wedding.
- ✓ Shop for grooms attire and shoes; groomsmen and fathers should then purchase and/or rent their attire
- ✓ Start any DIY projects needed *time to test and plan
- ✓ Complete registry

4 Months before Wedding

- ✓ Shop for wedding shoes ask bridesmaids to purchase their wedding shoes; wear shoes at home to test comfort level and break them in



- ✓ Choose wedding day accessories for yourself and bridesmaids (optional)
- ✓ Purchase gifts for bridal shower hostesses and bridal party

3 Months before Wedding

- ✓ Meet with officiant to finalize ceremony content and timing; select ceremony readings and confirm details with readers (if applicable)
- ✓ Order or shop for wedding favors and welcome bags for hotel guests - try Costco or BJ's for large purchases
- ✓ Bridal Shower, Bachelor and Bachelorette Parties

August, 2 Months Before Wedding

- ✓ Schedule first bridal gown fitting
- ✓ Select ceremony music for processional and recessional
- ✓ Select music for cocktail hour and reception; confirm details with musician/band/DJ
- ✓ Schedule catering tasting (unless you did this with initial contract proposal) and finalize menu
- ✓ Schedule cake tasting and finalize flavor/look (unless you did this with initial contract proposal)

1 Month before wedding

- ✓ Start detailed wedding day timeline with wedding planner
- ✓ Start a must-take photo list for photographer; include a list of family/friends that will need to be in photos
- ✓ Create the ceremony programs
- ✓ Apply for your marriage license; make sure you have researched the application process in the state your ceremony will take place
- ✓ Confirm rehearsal time and Rehearsal Dinner details and inform Bridal Party
- ✓ Start seating list for reception tables
- ✓ Site visit with venue, caterer and your wedding planner to go over floor plan and details



3 Weeks before Wedding

- ✓ Call and/or email guests who have not responded
- ✓ Start place cards and/or give list of names to calligrapher
- ✓ Finalize your vows (if writing your own)
- ✓ Schedule a haircut and color treatment – this should be a regular trim and color refresher and not a dramatic change

2 Weeks before Wedding

- ✓ Have your final dress fitting
- ✓ Make any last-minute seating adjustments and finalize place-cards
- ✓ Provide final guest count to caterer/venue and wedding planner
- ✓ Make any adjustments as needed to finalize wedding day timeline; getting ready, photos, introduction list and/or toasts
- ✓ Designate a parent or friend to take home wedding gifts and DIY items on wedding night; talk with your wedding planner about helping to pack up items

1 Week before Wedding

- ✓ Final confirmation with all vendors for wedding day
- ✓ Pick up wedding gown and veil – make sure it is steamed and wedding day ready (however, you may need to do a quick refresh on wedding day)
- ✓ Assemble or package favors and hotel gift bags, drop off at hotel the morning of the first guests arrival
- ✓ Decide wedding vendor tip amounts, place in sealed envelopes so your wedding planner can provide these to vendors during the wedding day

1-2 Days before Wedding

- ✓ Take some time to get a manicure, pedicure and/or massage to relax pre-wedding



- ✓ Pack up any DIY items (place cards, favors, toasting flutes, etc.) and hand off to wedding planner at wedding rehearsal
- ✓ Pack for honeymoon, if leaving after Wedding
- ✓ Have a rehearsal with your bridal party, officiant and planner
- ✓ Get ready for wedding weekend! Nothing else to do but celebrate!