



Sample wedding planning to-do list

10-12 Months Before Wedding

Decide on the budget.

Start the guest list.

Narrow down your wedding date

Choose a color scheme for your big day.

Book a Wedding Coordinator.

Book your ceremony venue if needed.

Book your reception venue.

Choose the members of your wedding party - maid of honor and best man, bridesmaids, groomsmen, ring bearer, flower girl as well as your ushers - and invite them to take these roles.

Create your wedding website.

8-10 Months Before Wedding

Book a band or a DJ

Book your photographer/videographer

Reserve blocks of hotel rooms for out-of-town guests and add accommodations and travel info to your wedding website, so your guests know what to expect.

Select your wedding dress and place the order.

6-8 Months Before Wedding

Select save-the-date cards and order.

Set up your registries. Add registries page to your website

Book your florist

Book your officiant.

Order save-the-date cards (be sure your guest list is finalized first). Include hotel information for out-of-town guests



4-6 Months Before Wedding

Search for a wedding cake and order if needed

Finalize floral arrangements and design with florist.

Order Invites and thank you notes

Book your ceremony and cocktail hour musicians.

Discuss rehearsal dinner – who will host? Whoever is hosting should begin searching for a venue. You will also need to negotiate who will be invited.

Select your bridesmaid dresses and flower-girl dress, and have your attendants place their orders.

Design Menu and Selections

3 Months Before Wedding

Stuff and send out wedding invitations. Track gifts received from guests and send thank-you notes.

Attend engagement photo shoot with photographer.

Purchase accessories for your gown, such as a veil, shoes, undergarments, and jewelry.

Choose groom's attire and attire for the men

Book your hair and makeup trial appointment.

Plan and book your honeymoon, including travel, accommodations, and activities.

Purchase your wedding bands.

If you are handling the bridesmaid dress order, confirm the delivery date.

Schedule gown fitting appointments. Your first appointment should be directly after you receive the gown, and the last appointment should fall no later than three weeks before the wedding.

Book your transportation vendor if needed

Research local marriage license requirements.

Decide on a guest book option.

Purchase or make gifts for your bridal party and close family.



Don't forget ushers, flower girls, ring bearers, and readers!
Obtain a marriage license.
Shop for all additional accessories like undergarments, jewelry, headpiece, bridal purse, etc.
Finalize any special preferences, readings, or other ceremony details (in writing) with your officiant.

2 Months Before Wedding

Create your 'must-take' photo list.
Confirm all honeymoon travel plans. Give someone a copy of your itinerary and contact information in case of an emergency.
Shop and pack for the honeymoon
If you have a DJ/band, work on a list of 'must-play' and 'do-not play' songs. Be sure you also send them selections for your introductions, first dance, cake cutting, father/daughter dance
Determine your ceremony music selections and send the list to your ceremony musicians.
Order Programs

1 Month Before Wedding

Write your vows if you choose to personalize them. Send a copy to your officiant.
Call guests who have not yet RSVP'd for the wedding
Create your seating chart.
Design and start creation of favors.
Print Menus
Start Hotel Bag concept
Give the seating chart to your caterer, reception venue manager, and wedding coordinator.
Create a wedding day schedule. Send the information to your wedding party and vendors.
Make place cards or give typed names to your calligrapher.
Confirm all final payment amounts with your vendors.



1 Week Before Wedding

Give final head count to the caterer.

Confirm set-up instructions and menu items.

After Wedding

Arrange for gown and veil to be cleaned and preserved. Make sure the provider is experienced in preserving wedding gowns. Do paperwork for official documents if you are changing your name.

Write thank-you notes for all the gifts you received at the wedding and before. Traditional etiquette gives you an 8-week grace period.