

The following checklist is designed with the (ideal) timetable of twelve months. If you’re planning your wedding on a shorter schedule, just start at the beginning of the list and try to catch up as quickly as possible. Use the boxes to the left of the items to check off tasks as you complete them.

**6 TO 9 MONTHS PRIOR TO WEDDING DAY:**

* Choose the members of your wedding party.
* Enroll in wedding/shower gift registries.
* Book engagement photo session for Save-the-Date Cards.
* Hire band/DJ for reception. Choose music.
* Select/order wedding gown and bridesmaids’ dresses.
* Reserve a block of hotel rooms for out-of-town guests. (Check on group rates.)
* Send out Save-the-Date cards. (Include lodging info and maps, if possible.)
* Shop for wedding rings
* Schedule wedding cake design appointments and tastings.
* Start planning honeymoon.
* Hire a photographer.
* Hire a caterer.
* Hire a florist.

**9 TO 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO WEDDING DAY:**

* Determine budget and how expenses will be shared.
* Create a binder to store/organize ideas, worksheets, receipts, brochures, etc.
* Discuss the size, style, location, and scope of the wedding you want.
* Choose a target wedding date and time. (The actual date will depend on Venue availability.)
* Visit and reserve wedding and reception sites.
* Choose and meet with your officiant.
* Begin shopping for the wedding gown.
* Start your guest list to estimate head count. Consider the budget when thinking about “must-invites” versus “nice-to-invites.”
* Finalize honeymoon plans, including visas, passports, and inoculations.
* Hire your wedding day carriage, limousine, etc.
* Plan the rehearsal dinner.

**4 TO 6 MONTHS PRIOR TO WEDDING DAY:**

* Finalize the guest list
* Order invitations (order 25 extra) and other wedding stationary, i.e., place cards and thank you notes.
* Plan wedding day salon appointments, including practice.

**2 TO 4 MONTHS PRIOR TO WEDDING DAY:**

* Obtain a marriage license.
* Order tuxedoes for groom and groomsmen.
* Meet with caterer for menu/wine selections/etc.
* Order wedding cake.
* Order your wedding rings.
* Confirm ceremony and reception music.
* Book a hotel room for the wedding night.
* Start writing your vows now.

**4 TO 8 WEEKS PRIOR TO WEDDING DAY:**

* Mail invitations 8 weeks before date.
* Confirm all transportation plans.
* Do a hair and makeup practice (including wedding veil, if applicable.)

**2 TO 4 WEEKS PRIOR TO WEDDING DAY:**

* Compile list of all wedding vendors and wedding party, with contact info. Carry this list WITH you everywhere.
* Communicate rehearsal dinner details to those who will attend the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner.
* Look into where bride, groom, and attendants will dress for the ceremony.
* Complete seating arrangements for reception.
* Finalize arrangements for out-of-town attendants and guests.
* Confirm details for photographer, officiant, flowers, caterer, etc.
* Final fitting for gown and attendants.
* Write rehearsal dinner toast.
* Purchase gifts for wedding attendants.



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**THE WEDDING DAY:**

* Appoint a trustworthy person to bring important items (cake knife, toasting glasses, etc.) to the reception.
* Appoint someone to act as an “organizer” to handle any last-minute problems.
* Check to make sure the Maid/Matron of Honor has the following items:

Something old, Something new,

Something borrowed, Something blue.

* Confirm honeymoon arrangements
* Pack for honeymoon.
* Post wedding announcements in the mail.
* Relax and remain calm.
* Remember to eat something.
* Allow at least two hours for getting dressed.

**1 WEEK PRIOR TO WEDDING DAY:**

**THE DAY BEFORE THE WEDDING:**

* Enjoy a relaxing day with family and friends.
* Attend the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner; give gifts to attendants.
* Give the rings and officiant’s fee to the Best Man.
* Try to get some rest.
* Enclose any fees due on the wedding day in envelopes for easy distribution.
* Get final beauty treatments (facial, manicure, pedicure, massage, waxing)
* Give the caterer a final head count.
* Review final details for those in the wedding party.