

Planning checklist

6-12 months

- Announce your engagement
- Pick the date
- Start working on your guest list
- Decide on and invite your wedding party
- Develop a budget, taking into consideration family contributions
- Plan on attending local wedding shows
- Research and visit wedding and reception venues ([page 83](#))
- Create a wedding notebook to keep yourself organized
- Create a wedding website (see our blog for advice)
- Select your wedding party
- Book blocks of hotel rooms in varying price ranges for out-of-town guests
- Hire a wedding planner
- Book an officiant
- Hire your photographer and videographer
- Pick out your DJ or band
- Research and book caterers and florists
- Start shopping for a dress

4-6 months

- Send save-the-date cards
- Register for gifts
- Select an invitation style and determine the proper wording
- Order your gown and veil
- Shop for your bridesmaids' dresses
- Determine what the groom and groomsmen will wear
- Discuss ceremony ideas and wording with your officiant
- Set up premarital counseling (some officiants require this)
- Book honeymoon and make travel arrangements
- Purchase your wedding rings
- Select a baker and confirm wedding cake and decorations
- Reserve rental equipment (tent, chairs, tables, etc.)
- Schedule tastings with your selected caterer
- Finalize floral arrangements
- Select a playlist with your band or DJ
- Arrange transportation to and from your wedding
- Order personalized wedding favors

2-4 months

- Finalize guest list
- Invite friends and family to give toasts
- Select a hair stylist and makeup artist
- Consider teeth whitening
- Sign up for dance classes
- Finalize menu
- Arrange rehearsal dinner

- Mail invitations eight weeks prior to the big day
- Update your wedding website
- Take engagement photos

One month

- Organize RSVPs and contact guests who haven't responded
- Get marriage license
- Try on wedding dress with shoes for final fitting
- Assign seating for reception
- Finalize your playlist
- Check bridal party attire
- Practice your first dance
- Find someone to watch your home or feed pets during honeymoon
- Review "must have" shots with photographer and videographer
- Meet with hair stylist and makeup artist for a test run
- Begin writing thank you notes for early wedding gifts
- Write vows and toasts
- Update your registry

1-2 weeks

- Confirm final guest count and wedding day schedule with all vendors
- Confirm all transportation arrangements
- Confirm times and locations for photo sessions
- Share wedding day schedule with wedding party and family members
- Book a spa treatment
- Organize wedding dress, shoes and all accessories, including jewelry and bridal emergency kit
- Pack for wedding night and honeymoon

The day before

- Prepare payment envelopes for vendors and determine how they will be delivered
- Rehearse ceremony with officiant and wedding party

On your wedding day

- Give yourself plenty of time to get ready
- Eat a nutritious breakfast and drink plenty of fluids
- Exchange gifts with your betrothed
- Have fun and enjoy the biggest celebration of your life!