

WEDDING PLANNING TIMELINE

TO BE USED AS A GUIDELINE

9 – 12 months before wedding	
	Announce your wedding
	Set a budget and decide who pays for what
	Set a wedding date
	Book reception site
	Book ceremony location
	Hire a wedding planner if you choose
	Start first draft of your guest list

6 – 9 months before wedding	
	Start shopping for a wedding dress
	Decide on bridesmaids dresses
	Organize flower decoration/bouquets
	Hire wedding photographer/videographer
	Hire DJ/Band
	Choose officiant and discuss ceremony
	Think about gift registries
	Check into hotel rooms for guests
	Have engagement party if you wish
	Book honeymoon

4 – 6 months before wedding	
	Select and order wedding invitations and stationary
	Choose wedding cake
	Discuss menu ideas with venue
	Arrange for any rental items
	Buy wedding rings
	Organize groom's tux and groomsmen also
	Decide on accessories for bridesmaids
	Look for wedding favors
	Confirm dates for bridal shower and bachelorette parties
	Start registry
	Get ideas for wedding hair and makeup
	Organize helpers (readers, flower girl, etc)

2 – 4 months before wedding	
	Finalize guest list
	Select place for rehearsal dinner
	Finalize rehearsal dinner plans
	Finalize menu
	Select music for ceremony
	Book makeup artist and hair stylist
	Check tuxes for groom have been ordered

Organize wedding transportation
Order wedding favors
Find gifts for each other, your attendants, parents
Purchase bridal party gifts
Purchase wedding accessories (candles, baskets, ring pillow, etc...)
Check registry regularly
Start preparations for honeymoon
Send invitations 8 weeks before wedding date

1 – 2 months before wedding

Have first bridal gown fitting
Schedule a final fitting for your gown so it can be ready for formal bridal portrait
Finalize ceremony readings, songs, etc...
Design wedding programs
Meet with officiant to finalize ceremony
Write vows
Set appointment with photographer for your formal bridal portrait
Prepare photo and video shot list
Check requirements for marriage license in your state
Discuss and finalize details with wedding service providers

3 – 4 weeks before wedding

Get marriage license (normally no earlier than 30 days before wedding)
Arrange name change
Mail rehearsal dinner invitations
Meet with stylist to discuss makeup and hair
Confirm hotel arrangements for out-of-town guests

1 – 2 weeks before wedding

Call guests who have not responded to invitation
Make final payments for all services that require payment
Have final wedding gown fitting
Finalize wedding day schedule and share with attendants, parents and all vendors
Pick up wedding dress and make sure all accessories are together
Reconfirm all wedding plans: ceremony, reception site, florist, photographer/videographer, musicians, cake
Give reception site the final head count
Provide wedding party and out-of-town guests with itinerary and maps
Give someone at home emergency numbers of honeymoon locations
Finalize seating arrangements
Prepare placecards
Organize ceremony accessories (candles, bows, etc...)
Organize receptions accessories (guest book, pen, etc...)

	Prepare wedding favors for transportation
	Complete seating plan for reception
	Confirm arrival times for attendants
	Pack for wedding night and honeymoon

The day before the wedding

	Prepare payment envelopes
	Give rings to best man
	Gather wedding dress and all accessories
	Get a manicure, pedicure, massage
	Rehearse ceremony with officiant and wedding party
	Confirm flight arrangements for honeymoon
	Compile an emergency list of all wedding vendors with phone number
	Enjoy your rehearsal dinner!

The wedding day

	See hairdresser
	Have makeup applied
	Don't forget rings
	Remember Marriage License

After wedding

	Get wedding gown cleaned and preserved
	Preserve bouquet
	Write and send thank you notes
	Complete process of name change
	Finalize gift registry
	Meet with photographer/videographer to finalize albums/video