YOUR WEDDING PLANNING CHECKLIST

Here’s a complete breakdown of everything you need to do—and when you need to do it. From setting a budget to finding your dream dress to packing your bridal emergency kit, we’ve got you covered!

12+ MONTHS

- Set budget
- Determine if parents will make monetary contributions
- Draft guest list
- Find and reserve ceremony and reception sites
- Set wedding date
- Start dress shopping
- Determine rain plan, if celebrating outdoors
- Book planner, if using
- Announce wedding party

9+ MONTHS

- Order dress
- Book caterer
- Book photographer
- Book DJ or band
- Begin registry
- Create wedding website, if using
- Reserve hotel rooms for out-of-towners

6 TO 9 MONTHS

- Mail save-the-dates, if sending
- Book officiant
- Book florist
- Order stationery, including invites
- Book calligrapher, if using
- Book tent, if outdoor wedding
- Order bridesmaid dresses
- Plan honeymoon
YOUR WEDDING PLANNING CHECKLIST

4 TO 6 MONTHS

☐ Begin dress fittings
☐ Determine menu
☐ Hire lighting designer, if using
☐ Book rentals (chairs, dishes, furnishings, etc.)
☐ Order transportation (limos, etc.)
☐ Make rehearsal dinner reservation
☐ Order cake
☐ Discuss music options with DJ or band

2 TO 6 MONTHS

☐ Plan ceremony readings and music
☐ Book hairstylist and makeup artist, if using
☐ Order favors
☐ Choose flowers
☐ Test-run hairstyles with hairstylist
☐ Order groomsmen outfits

2 MONTHS BEFORE

☐ Attend tasting at caterer’s, if offered
☐ Discuss vendor meals with caterer
☐ Buy wedding party gifts
☐ Buy wedding-day extras (guest book, cake knife, etc.)
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6 WEEKS BEFORE

☐ Mail invitations (but earlier if destination or holiday wedding)
☐ Buy rings
☐ Buy garter, if doing toss
☐ Check electrical power at reception site
☐ Create signature drink

4 WEEKS BEFORE

☐ Begin seating chart
☐ Get marriage license (check state requirements)
☐ Decide who will do readings and toasts
☐ Print ceremony programs
☐ Create day-of schedule and send to vendors
☐ Send rehearsal dinner invitations
☐ Write vows, if writing

2 WEEKS BEFORE

☐ Give caterer guest count
☐ Discuss playlist with DJ or band
☐ Discuss shot list with photographer
☐ Assign transportation leaders, if necessary
☐ Decide who will decorate reception site
☐ Break in wedding shoes
☐ Order snacks for getting-ready room, if catering
YOUR WEDDING PLANNING CHECKLIST

WEEK OF

☐ Pick up dress
☐ Gather day-of essentials
☐ Put together emergency kit bridal bag
☐ Assign someone to gather parties for photographs
☐ Put together favors and welcome bags
☐ Assign day-of point person (to answer guest questions)
☐ Pick up rings (good job for groom)
☐ Confirm vendor delivery and arrival times

DAY BEFORE

☐ Hold rehearsal dinner
☐ Prepare snacks for getting-ready rooms, if preparing
☐ Fill and gather tip envelopes
☐ Confirm limo pickup times and addresses
☐ Get outfit together, including shapewear and shoes
☐ Get manicure and pedicure

DAY OF

☐ Drink water and eat!
☐ Charge phone
☐ Take pre-ceremony photographs
☐ ENJOY