

wedding planning checklist

This checklist was designed to zap the stress out of your wedding planning! All tasks have been organized into monthly increments, so you know exactly what to focus on each step of the way. My hope is that this can help you stress less and enjoy the season of being engaged because it'll be gone before you know it!

12 months

pro tip:

HOLD OFF on looking at venues until you have made a guest list and set your budget. This will save you the headache of losing a deposit on a venue that can't accommodate your guest list or budget.

WAIT to book your venue until you have coordinated with your dream vendors (photographer, videographer, wedding planner, etc.) to see what dates they're all available on. If you plan ahead you won't have to settle!

- Draft guest list
- Set wedding budget
- Decide on wedding style (browse Pinterest together for this!)
- Explore ceremony + reception venue options
- Research wedding vendors + begin assembling dream team
- Book venue(s) + set a date
- Book wedding planner
- Choose wedding party
- Begin browsing Save the Date designs
- Create wedding website
- Begin researching wedding dress + veil styles
- Order sample Save the Dates (optional)
- Schedule dress appointments with bridal shops

10/11 months

pro tip:

UNSURE WHAT ORDER TO
BOOK YOUR VENDORS IN?

12 MONTHS

- Venue
- Planner

10-11 MONTHS

- Photographer
- Videographer
- Caterer/Cake

8-9 MONTHS

- Florist
- DJ/Band
- Officiant
- Hair/Makeup

- Book photographer
- Book videographer
- Book caterer
- Schedule engagement photos
- Purchase wedding dress, veil + undergarments
- Choose bridal party attire + accessories
- Refine guest list
- Mail Save the Dates
- Order Save the Dates (after engagement session)

8/9 months

- Book officiant
- Book florist
- Book DJ/band
- Book hair + makeup
- Browse wedding invitation designs
- Create gift registry
- Begin planning honeymoon (check out my blog post for tips!)
- Find hotels at different price points for out-of-town guests + reserve room block

6/7 months

- Purchase wedding bands
- Reserve rentals for decor, party bus/limo, etc.
- Order thank you cards
- Finalize groomsmen attire
- Choose cake style + schedule tastings (YUM!)
- Personalize + order wedding invitation sample
- Book transportation to and from venue (if needed)
- Meet with officiant to plan ceremony

4/5 months

pro tip:

HOW MUCH DO WEDDING FLOWERS COST?

It will vary depending on the size of your wedding party, and if you want to use them for decor (ceremony arbor, reception tables, etc). A great rule of thumb is to allocate 10% of your total wedding budget towards them!

- Order wedding cake
- Meet with florist
- Schedule dress fitting(s)
- Book honeymoon flights + hotels
- Book hotel for wedding night
- Send guest list to shower hosts
- Prepare a playlist (and "do not play-list" for DJ/band)
- Finalize wedding guest list
- Compile rehearsal dinner guest list
- Book rehearsal dinner venue
- Order rehearsal dinner invitations

3 months

- Hair + makeup trial
- Book photo booth rental (optional)
- Finalize readers + readings for ceremony
- Finalize honeymoon plans + ensure all documents are in order
- Plan reception seating (reception floor plan, seating chart, etc.)
- Finalize reception menu with caterer
- Order menu cards (optional)
- Purchase toasting flutes, serving pieces, guestbook, flower basket + ring bearer pillow

2 months

pro tip:

LAST MINUTE THINGS

Here are a few things I almost forgot to order as a bride:

- Garter
- Cake-Cutting Utensils
- Something Old, New, Borrowed and Blue
- Cute Honeymoon Outfits

- Mail wedding invitations
- Draft personal vows (optional)
- Review ceremony details with officiant
- Finalize seating arrangements
- Purchase wedding party gifts)
- Apply for marriage license
- Purchase guest favors
- Draft content for wedding programs
- Finalize fittings for wedding party + parents
- Choose "something old, new, borrowed + blue"
- Book spa + beauty treatments for bridal party
- Create wedding day timeline + send to vendors, officiant and wedding party

1 month

- Final dress fitting
- Pick up marriage license
- Call vendors to confirm date, time + location
- Confirm honeymoon reservations
- Pick up wedding rings
- Order wedding programs
- Attend wedding shower(s)
- Purchase wedding shoes

2 weeks

- Break in wedding shoes
- Make arrangements for pets/plants while on honeymoon
- Follow up with guests who haven't RSVP'd
- Give final guest count to caterer
- Send playlist + timeline to DJ/band/ceremony musicians
- Get haircut + freshen up color
- Update registries
- Send directions to wedding day transportation driver
- Delegate someone to return tuxes, rentals + tend to wedding dress

1 week

- Prepare wedding day emergency kit
- Give photographer/videographer image/video requests
- Give readers their scripts
- Prepare final vendor payments + cash tips for service personnel
- Lay out wedding clothes + gather all accessories
- Pack for honeymoon
- Finalize vows

ONE day before

- Treat yourself to a mani/pedi + massage
- Make sure everything's laid out + packed
- Attend + HAVE FUN at dress rehearsal/dinner
- Soak up time with everyone around you
- Get lots of sleep!

YAY wedding day!

- Eat a good breakfast + mobile order some Starbucks!
- Drink lots of water (order with your Starbs)
- Steam dress + veil if needed
- Set aside all detail items you want photographed
- Allow plenty of time to get ready
- Exchange notes with fiancé
- Give rings to best man
- Give officiant fee
- Take mental pictures + soak up every bit of your day ♥

POST wedding

- Ensure tuxes + all rentals are returned
- Take wedding dress to cleaners
- Aim to send out thank you cards within 3 weeks of wedding

having a shorter engagement?

NO PROBLEMO, you can 100% still use this guide to plan your wedding day. If your engagement is shorter just condense this list and aim to have everything listed in the 10-12 month categories completed by the end of your first month of engagement. You should be on schedule for everything else from there on!