



Wedding Planning Checklist

Planning a wedding, or the biggest dinner party you will ever throw, can be just a bit stressful. Stay on track with a well thought out planning list!

24 to 12 Months Before Your Wedding

- Share the good news!
- Insure your engagement ring(s)
- Set up a wedding website
- Start a [Pinterest](#) board. Ours has a lot of inspiration from Chicago vendors!
- Start planning your guest list to get a good idea of numbers
- Start your wedding budget. Have a clear and honest conversation of all involved who is paying for what.
- Choose your wedding date/season
- Choose a wedding theme or style
- Host an engagement party
- Begin looking at venues

1 Year Before Your Wedding

- Book reception facility. Make sure to review change or cancellation policies
- Book your officiant
- Hire a wedding planner - something brides NEVER regret doing! We love working with [Rustique Swan](#) and [Sarah Kathleen Events](#).

- ❑ Have an engagement photo shoot (hint – this time allows you to connect with your photographer, allowing you both to become more comfortable with each other)
- ❑ Choose your wedding party
- ❑ Determine your color scheme
- ❑ Plan and budget for your honeymoon
- ❑ Order your passport if you plan to travel for your honeymoon
- ❑ Find your [dream wedding dress](#) (our favorite part!) and [book your appointment](#).
Pro tip: look for veils while wearing your wedding dress and read this article on [Wedding Dress Shopping Myths](#) and [Best Wedding Dress Shopping Tips](#)
- ❑ Start researching your bachelor/bachelorette parties
- ❑ Get started on a health and skincare routine. Our friends at Refined Beauty have a great [checklist for you!](#) (ps waxing your armpits makes a huge difference, no shadows)

6 to 9 Months Before Your Wedding

- ❑ Finalize your guest list
- ❑ Hire your photographer (one of our favs is [Photography by Lauryn](#))
- ❑ Book your DJ, musicians or other entertainment
- ❑ Hire your florist, caterer and other wedding vendors
- ❑ Order your [invitations](#) and thank you cards
- ❑ Purchase your [bridal party dresses](#)
- ❑ Mail out save the date cards
- ❑ Book any transportation needs and reserve hotel rooms
- ❑ Book a suite for your wedding night
- ❑ Revisit your budget to make sure you're on track and make any adjustments
- ❑ If you are not using a full service wedding venue, confirm any rentals you may need, including a tent, tables, chairs, linens and table settings
- ❑ Book your rehearsal dinner

4 Months Before Your Wedding

- Order your flowers
- Register for marriage classes
- Finalize the food for your rehearsal dinner
- Decide on your hair and makeup style and book appointments with stylists
- Choose your cake and food for the wedding reception
- Start writing your vows and choose any ceremony readings
- Create a schedule of the ceremony and reception timeline (this is where a planner comes in very handy!)
- Schedule dress fittings for yourself and your bridal party
- Purchase your rings
- Plan the menus for all your pre-wedding events
- Purchase gifts for your wedding party (love these [artisan soaps](#))

6 to 8 Weeks Before Your Wedding

- Send out your wedding invitations (*if you're expecting international guests or planning a destination wedding, earlier is better*)
- Start tracking RSVPs
- Arrange for your marriage license
- Plan any name change documents and insurance
- Finalize your reception menu
- Finalize any outstanding vendor bookings
- Purchase a guestbook
- Purchase favors
- Create a seating plan
- Confirm any travel arrangements
- Get together (Facetime or Zoom work too) with your bridal party to help you coordinate the details of the day. Trust us, they want to help!
- Purchase your wedding accessories including shoes, jewelry, [ring box](#), etc.

1 Month Before Your Wedding

- Finalize your wedding vows
- Have a trial hair and makeup day
- Finish tracking and following up RSVPs
- Final fitting of your gown
- Find something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue!
- Pick up your wedding rings
- Start preparing DIY elements of your wedding
- Prepare thank you cards
- Prepare a shot-list for your photographer
- Get a facial and continue with your skincare routine
- Order a clear umbrella for you and matching ones for your bridal party - better to prepare than to be running around last minute.

2 Weeks Before Your Wedding

- Finalize your guest list and give a final headcount to your reception facility, caterer etc.
- Confirm all final arrangements with your vendors (another great thing planners can help with!)
- Send detailed instructions to your bridal party and vendors, including the final schedule for the ceremony and reception
- Pack for your honeymoon
- Provide a final song-list (must plays and don't you dare) to your DJ/musicians
- Print place cards
- Prepare payment for all your vendors
- Write speeches
- Pick up your wedding dress. Make sure to have a space cleared to store it so it stays wrinkle free.

1 Week Before Your Wedding

- Build a bridal emergency kit with tissues, lipstick, band aids, a sewing kit, safety pins etc.
- Check the weather forecast and make any required alternative plans
- Finalize any DIY projects or purchase any remaining event decor

1 to 3 days Before Your Wedding

- Get a manicure/pedicure
- Wedding rehearsal or pre-wedding dinner
- Pack all your wedding day items including your rings, booking receipts, passports, shoes, accessories, vows and your marriage license
- Arrange for someone in your wedding party to transport any gifts or flower arrangements before and after the wedding
- Arrange for return of rental items
- Get as much rest as possible

Your Wedding Day

- Give the rings to the best man and maid of honor
- Spend a lot of time getting ready
- Eat breakfast
- Attend hair and makeup appointments
- Include your photographer in the wedding preparation process
- Give your bridesmaids their gifts
- Meet with your vendors and officiant and go over any final arrangements
- Get dressed
- Get married!