



Foundations4YourLife
Building Relationships for a Better Life

WEDDING TIMELINE CHECKLIST

We hope you find this checklist helpful as you plan your wedding. The To-Do-List is organized from 9-12 months before the wedding until the days following a wedding. You may not need all that is on this list. Tailor it for your needs.

DO THIS FIRST:

Before you get engaged and talking about the possibility of marriage, that is the optimal time to seek relationship coaching! Please see the flier: "Before The I Do's." If you are already engaged, start your relationship coaching right away. You'll be glad you did.

9-12 months before

- Get a folder/binder to put all of your information
- Set up a wedding budget. Who pays for what?
- Officially announce your engagement
- Contact officiant and set the wedding date
- Decide on style of wedding (formal, semi-formal, informal, etc.)
- Choose and book reception site
- Choose and book ceremony location
- Need a wedding planner? Contact them now
- Start first draft of your guest list

6-9 months before

- Consider setting up a wedding website
- Announce wedding date (especially for those out-of-town)
- Start shopping for wedding dress, shoes, and accessories

- Decide on bridesmaids' dresses
- Organize decorations and bouquets
- Hire catering service
- Hire wedding photo/videographers
- Hire DJ/band
- Start thinking about gift registry options
- Reserve hotel rooms (in varying price ranges) for out-of-town guests
- Have an engagement party
- Book honeymoon

4-6 months before

- Select and order wedding invitations and stationary
- Choose wedding cake
- Discuss menu items with catering service
- Arrange for rental items (arches, candelabras, china, crystal, flatware...)
- Buy wedding rings
- Organize groom's tux and decide what groomsmen will wear
- Make sure bridesmaids ordered their gowns and decide on accessories
- Look for wedding favors
- Confirm dates for bridal shower and bachelorette parties
- Start registry (before sending bridal shower invitations)
- Get ideas for wedding hair and makeup
- Organize helpers (readers, musicians, ushers, guestbook attendant, etc.)
- Give guest list to shower hostesses

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- Decide if you want wedding insurance

2-4 months before

- Submit newspaper wedding announcement
- Finalize guest list and send invitations
- Select location of rehearsal dinner
- Finalize rehearsal dinner plans
- Finalize wedding menu
- Select music for ceremony, reception, etc.
- Book makeup artist and hairstylist
- Make sure groom and groomsmen tuxes have been ordered
- Organize wedding transportation (for you and your guests)
- Order wedding favors
- Find gifts for each other, attendants, shower hostess, parents, etc.
- Purchase bridal party gifts
- Purchase wedding accessories (candles, baskets, ring pillow, etc.)
- Check registry from time-to-time (needs to be enough options left)
- Joint bank accounts, insurance, merger of money, etc.
- Start preparations for honeymoon
- Send invitations 8 weeks before wedding date

1-2 months before

- First bridal gown fitting
- Schedule a final fitting for groom so he will be ready for formal bridal portrait
- Finalize ceremony readings, songs, etc.

- Design wedding programs
- Meet with officiant to finalize ceremony, vows, etc.
- Arrange “Bridesmaid Luncheon” and other “Pre-wedding Parties”
- Set appointment with photographer for your formal bridal portrait
- Discuss and finalize details with wedding service providers

3-4 weeks before

- 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

- Make final payments for all services
- Have final wedding gown fitting
- Finalize wedding-day schedule and share with attendants, parents, and vendors
- Pick up wedding dress and make sure all accessories are together
- Reconfirm all wedding plans: ceremony, reception site, florist, photo/videographer, musicians, DJ, baker, honeymoon
- Give caterer/reception site final head count
- Provide wedding party and out-of-tow guests with itinerary and maps
- Prepare emergency kit with needle, thread, safety pins, tape, mirror, etc.
- Give someone at home emergency numbers of honeymoon locations, credit card numbers, etc.
- Finalize seating arrangements

- Prepare place cards
- Prepare “ceremony box” for ceremony accessories
- Prepare “reception box” for reception accessories
- Prepare wedding favors for transportation if necessary
- Complete seating plan for reception
- Confirm all rental and floral delivery dates and times
- Confirm arrival times for attendants
- Pack for wedding night and honeymoon

The day before

- Prepare a list of payment envelopes, marking who is responsible for each one
- Hand out assignment lists and checklists to ensure everyone knows their tasks
- Hand out ceremony box to appropriate person
- Hand out reception box to appropriate person
- Hand out favor box to appropriate person
- Give rings to best man
- Gather wedding dress and all accessories
- Get a manicure, pedicure, massage
- Rehearse ceremony with officiant and wedding party
- Confirm transportation arrangements for honeymoon
- Compile an emergency list of all wedding vendors with phone numbers

The wedding day

- Try to eat breakfast
- See hairdresser

- Have makeup applied
- Don't forget rings (if you haven't given them to the best man) and wedding license
- Take a relaxing bath

After the 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 photo/videographer to finalize albums/video