

Wedding Planning Checklist & Timeline

Remove the Stress

The question has been asked, the champagne has been popped and the happy tears have been wiped away...now it's time to start planning!!

Organizing a wedding can quickly become overwhelming-who knew there were so many details involved?! There is good news: Planning the big day doesn't actually have to be so stressful, if you divide the tasks into bite size chunks and knock them out on a month by month basis with a wedding-planning check list and timeline!

To help get you started on devising the wedding of your dreams, I've created the ultimate checklist to help guide you through the planning process that way you're able to enjoy each step, stress less, have fun and more importantly revel in this special time together!

If you are a hands-off type of person, now is the time to hire a wedding planner or minimally a day of coordinator. I have a few friends all over the country, so let me know if you need a referral.

Bookmark this page and come back often and if you have any other questions, feel free to email me, I will gladly provide answer any wedding questions you have.

ashanta@butamomentphotography.com

12 Months

- ☐ Choose a date
- ☐ Talk budget
- ☐ Decide wedding style
- ☐ Make a guest list
- ☐ Explore ceremony & reception venue options
- ☐ Start assembling a dream team of wedding pros
- ☐ Engagement photo session
- ☐ Choose wedding party
- ☐ Create wedding website
- ☐ Begin browsing Save the Date designs
- ☐ Order sample Save the Date
- ☐ Order Save-the-Dates
- ☐ Begin researching wedding dress and veil styles
- ☐ Create wedding style mood boards on Pinterest

11-10 Months

- ☐ Hire vendors
- ☐ Reserve ceremony & reception venues
- ☐ Purchase wedding dress, veil, undergarments
- ☐ Choose bridal party attire & accessories
- ☐ Book officiant
- ☐ Mail Save-the-Dates

9-8 Months

- ☐ Find hotels at different price points for out-of-town guests
- ☐ Browse wedding invitation designs
- ☐ Refine guest list
- ☐ Create gift registry
- ☐ Begin planning honeymoon

7-6 Months

- ☐ Reserve rentals ☐ Hire ceremony musicians
- ☐ Book transportation to and from venues
- ☐ Research wedding day hair and makeup styles
- ☐ Meet with officiant to discuss run down of ceremony
- ☐ Choose cake style & schedule tastings
- ☐ Decide groomsmen attire
- ☐ Personalize & order wedding invitation sample
- ☐ Purchase wedding bands
- ☐ Order wedding invitation suite
- ☐ Order thank you cards

5-4 Months

- ☐ Order wedding cake
- ☐ Meet with florist
- ☐ Schedule dress fittings
- ☐ Book honeymoon flights & hotels
- ☐ Book room for wedding night
- ☐ Prepare a playlist for DJ/band
- ☐ Finalize guest list
- ☐ Compile rehearsal dinner guest list
- ☐ Book rehearsal dinner venue
- ☐ Order rehearsal dinner invitations

3 Months

- ☐ Hair and makeup trial
- ☐ Book a photo booth rental
- ☐ Finalize readers and readings
- ☐ Finalize honeymoon plans and ensure all documents are in order
- ☐ Plan reception seating
- ☐ Purchase toasting flutes, serving pieces, guestbook, flower basket and ring bearer pillow
- ☐ Finalize reception menu with caterer
- ☐ Order menu cards

2 Months

- ☐ Mail wedding invitations
- ☐ Begin writing vows
- ☐ Review ceremony details with officiant
- ☐ Finalize seating arrangements
- ☐ Buy wedding-party gifts
- ☐ Apply for marriage license
- ☐ Purchase gifts for guests
- ☐ Lay out the content for wedding programs
- ☐ Finalize fittings for wedding party and parents
- ☐ Create wedding day timelines and send to vendors, officiant and wedding party
- ☐ Decide on “something old, something new, something borrowed & something blue”
- ☐ Book spa and beauty treatments for you and bridal 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
- ☐ Write thank you notes as gifts are received

2 Weeks

- ☐ Begin breaking in wedding shoes
- ☐ Make arrangements for the caring of pets & plants while on honeymoon
- ☐ Follow up with guests who have not RSVP'd
- ☐ Give final guest count to caterer
- ☐ Send playlists 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 your image & video requests
- ☐ Give readers their scripts
- ☐ Prepare final payments to vendors & cash tips for service personnel
- ☐ Lay out wedding clothes & gather all accessories

Day Before

- ☐ Treat yourself to a mani/pedi & massage
- ☐ Attend wedding rehearsal
- ☐ Have fun at rehearsal dinner
- ☐ Thank everyone around you
- ☐ Get to bed at a decent hour

Wedding Day

- ☐ Eat a good breakfast
- ☐ Stay off feet as much as possible
- ☐ Allow plenty of time to get ready
- ☐ Drink water
- ☐ Take dress & veil out of the bag & have steamed if needed
- ☐ Lay out all items you want to be captured by photographer
- ☐ Give officiant fee & wedding rings to best man
- ☐ Exchange notes with fiancé
- ☐ Relax, smile & soak up every moment of the big day

Beyond The Wedding

- ☐ Ensure tuxes & all rentals have been returned
- ☐ Get wedding dress to cleaners.
- ☐ Send out thank you cards no later than 3 weeks after wedding day

This may seem like an overwhelming list of things to check off before your wedding day but if you stick to the timeline your day should go off without a hitch!

As for the couples who have a shorter engagement time, pulling off your dream wedding is still possible and can be done in a stress-free matter as well! If you have 6 months to plan before your wedding then condense this list and try to get everything done at the 12 month mark done your first month and you should pretty much be on schedule for everything else.

Happy planning!!