



CAPTURING THE MOMENT IN WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN CREATED FOR

# Wedding Timeline Checklist

*OK! So now you are engaged, now what! I put together this timeline to walk you through some of the basic items to complete within a 12-month period. Remember to have fun, BREATHE and most importantly...Enjoy the moment...*

## 9 to 12 months prior to the wedding day

- Arrange a gathering for you and your parents.
- Determine the budget and how expenses will be shared.
- Choose a target wedding date and time.
- Discuss the size, style, location, and scope of the wedding you want.
- Visit and reserve wedding and reception sites. ([check out my list of top 20 locations](#))
- Meet with your officiant.
- Create a binder to store and organize ideas, worksheets, receipts, brochures, etc.
- Start compiling your guest list to estimate head count. Consider the budget when thinking about “must-invites” versus “nice-to-invites.”
- Begin shopping for the wedding gown.

## 6 to 9 months prior

- Choose the members of your wedding party.
- Enroll in wedding and shower gift registries.
- Hire a photographer and a videographer.
- Book an engagement photo session, especially if you plan to include a professional engagement picture with save-the-date cards.
- Hire a caterer.
- Hire a florist.
- Make arrangements for music to be played at the ceremony and reception, which might include booking a band or solo musician, hiring a DJ, and choosing songs.
- Reserve a block of hotel rooms for out-of-town guests. Be sure to ask about group rates.
- Send save-the-date cards to your guests. Include lodging information and maps.
- Shop for wedding rings.
- Select and order the wedding gown, leaving ample time for delivery and alterations.
- Shop for bridesmaids’ dresses.
- Schedule wedding cake design appointments and tastings.
- Start planning your honeymoon.

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## *4 to 6 months prior*

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- Finalize the guest list.
- Order invitations and other wedding stationery like place cards and thank you notes.
- Plan wedding-day beauty preparations. Ask your stylists if they can work at the wedding site.
- Finalize your honeymoon plans. If traveling outside the country, arrange for visas, passports and inoculations.
- Hire your wedding day transportation.
- Plan the rehearsal dinner.

## *2 to 4 months prior*

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- Obtain a marriage license. Remember to bring all necessary documents with you.
- Order tuxedos for the groom and groomsmen.
- Meet with the caterer to review food and drink menus.
- Order the wedding cake.
- Order your wedding rings.
- Confirm the ceremony and reception music.
- Book a hotel room for the wedding night.
- If you plan on writing your own vows, start writing them now.

## *4 to 8 weeks prior*

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- Mail the wedding invitations.
- Confirm all transportation plans.
- Do a hair and makeup run-through. Include your wedding veil, if applicable.

## *2 to 4 weeks prior*

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- Work on seating arrangements for the reception.
- Finalize arrangements for out-of-town attendants and guests.
- Confirm details with the photographer, florist, and other vendors.
- Have final fitting for bridal gown and bridesmaids' dresses.
- Write your rehearsal dinner toast.
- Communicate the rehearsal dinner details to those who will attend.
- Compile a list of the wedding vendors and wedding party, with contact information.
- Purchase gifts for the wedding attendants.
- Determine where the bride, groom, and attendants will dress for the ceremony.

## *1 week prior*

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- Place fees due on the wedding day in envelopes for easy distribution.
- Give the caterer a final head count.
- Appoint a trustworthy person to bring important items—such as the cake knife, toasting glasses, and guest book—to the reception.
- Appoint someone to act as an “organizer” to handle any last-minute problems.
- Review final details with the wedding party.
- Get beauty treatments such as a manicure, facial, massage, waxing, and brow shaping.

## *The day before the wedding*

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- Gather the following:
  - Something old, to Symbolize continuity with family and heritage
  - Something new, to Symbolize optimism and hope for the new life ahead
  - Something borrowed, from a happily married person, to symbolize marriage longevity
  - Something blue, to Symbolize love and fidelity
- Confirm honeymoon arrangements.
- Pack for the honeymoon.
- Enjoy a relaxing day with family and friends.
- Attend the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner; give gifts to attendants.
- Give the rings and officiant’s fee to the best man.
- Try to get some rest.

## *Wedding day*

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- Relax and remain calm.
- Remember to eat something.
- Allow at least two hours to get dressed.
- ENJOY THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EVENT!