

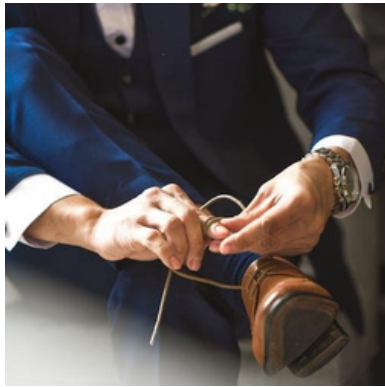
Future groom  
future groom



By Inspire Me Photography

# The Groom's Complete Wedding Planning Guide

*A comprehensive resource from [Inspire Me Photography]*



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## Introduction

Congratulations on your engagement! While wedding planning is often portrayed as the bride's domain, the modern groom plays an essential and active role in creating a meaningful celebration. This guide will help you navigate your wedding planning journey with confidence and purpose.

As experienced wedding photographers, we've seen countless grooms make significant contributions to their wedding day. This guide compiles our best advice to help you prepare for both your responsibilities and the once-in-a-lifetime moments you'll want to remember forever.

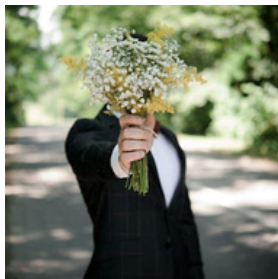
# Groom's Planning Timeline

## 12+ Months Before

- Celebrate your engagement!
- Discuss budget and expectations with your partner
- Create a guest list draft (particularly your side)
- Choose your best man and groomsmen
- Help research and visit potential venues
- Participate in selecting the wedding date
- Begin researching honeymoon options

## 9-12 Months Before

- Meet with potential officiants together
- Research rehearsal dinner venues
- Start looking into groom's attire options
- Contribute to the wedding website creation
- Book honeymoon transportation
- Help select the photographer and videographer



## 6-9 Months Before

- Plan and book the honeymoon
- Research and book rehearsal dinner venue
- Shop for wedding bands together
- Arrange accommodations for out-of-town groomsmen
- Meet with potential DJs or bands
- Discuss formal wear with groomsmen

## 4-6 Months Before

- Purchase or rent formal wear

- Schedule fittings for you and groomsmen
- Finalize honeymoon details and bookings
- Plan bachelor party with best man
- Order groomsmen gifts
- Participate in selecting menu and cake

## **2-3 Months Before**

- Ensure groomsmen have ordered their attire
- Write your vows (if writing custom vows)
- Apply for marriage license together
- Confirm travel arrangements for honeymoon
- Book hotel room for wedding night
- Prepare any needed documents for honeymoon

## **1 Month Before**

- Attend final fitting for formalwear
- Get haircut (not too close to wedding day)
- Begin breaking in wedding shoes if new
- Finalize rehearsal dinner details
- Prepare toast for reception
- Review timeline for wedding day

## **1 Week Before**

- Pack for honeymoon and wedding night
- Pick up formal wear
- Prepare payments and tips for vendors
- Get a fresh haircut
- Attend bachelor party
- Confirm transportation arrangements
- Prepare wedding day emergency kit

## **Wedding Day**

- Eat a good breakfast
- Stay hydrated (limit alcohol before ceremony)
- Help with any last-minute logistics
- Get dressed with plenty of time to spare
- Have rings ready
- Take a moment to breathe and be present



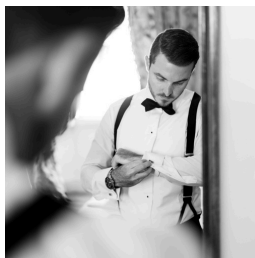
# The Groom's Checklist

## Attire

- ☐ Wedding suit/tuxedo
- ☐ Dress shirt
- ☐ Formal shoes
- ☐ Appropriate socks
- ☐ Tie/bow tie
- ☐ Cufflinks
- ☐ Pocket square
- ☐ Belt/suspenders
- ☐ Watch
- ☐ Undershirt
- ☐ Formal wear for rehearsal dinner
- ☐ Comfortable change of clothes for reception/exit (optional)

## Important Documents

- ☐ Marriage license
- ☐ Passport/ID for honeymoon
- ☐ Vendor contracts
- ☐ Wedding day timeline
- ☐ Vows
- ☐ Wedding rings
- ☐ Honeymoon reservations
- ☐ Best man's contact information



## Traditional Groom Responsibilities

- ☐ Plan and book honeymoon
- ☐ Plan and organize rehearsal dinner
- ☐ Select and manage groomsmen attire
- ☐ Prepare wedding toast
- ☐ Arrange transportation to and from venues
- ☐ Purchase wedding bands

- ☐ Organize accommodations for out-of-town groomsmen
- ☐ Obtain marriage license
- ☐ Purchase gift for bride
- ☐ Purchase gifts for groomsmen
- ☐ Write thank-you notes (for your side)

## Day-Of Items

- ☐ Wedding bands
- ☐ Wedding outfit and accessories
- ☐ Vows (if writing your own)
- ☐ Copy of speech/toast
- ☐ Gifts for bride and wedding party
- ☐ Overnight bag for wedding night
- ☐ Wallet, ID, and some cash
- ☐ Phone and charger
- ☐ Toiletries and cologne

## Attire Guide

### Suit vs. Tuxedo

- **Suit:** Versatile, can be worn again, appropriate for daytime or less formal weddings ●
- **Tuxedo:** Traditional evening wear, features satin lapels, suitable for formal evening weddings

### Color Guide

- **Black:** Classic, formal, appropriate for evening
- **Navy:** Versatile, flattering on most, works day or night
- **Gray:** Modern, works well for daytime weddings
- **Tan/Beige:** Perfect for outdoor, summer, or destination weddings
- **Burgundy/Green:** Bold choice for a fashion-forward look

### Fit Tips

- Jacket should hug your shoulders
- One inch of shirt cuff should show beyond jacket sleeve
- Pants should have slight break at shoes
- Jacket should close without pulling
- Tailoring makes all the difference – budget for alterations

## Accessorizing

- Match metals (cufflinks, watch, belt buckle)
- Coordinate tie/pocket square with wedding colors
- Consider seasonal appropriate fabrics
- Boutonnière should complement bridal bouquet
- Socks should match pants or show personality



## Speech Preparation

### Toast Timeline

- Plan to speak for 3-5 minutes
- Write first draft 1 month before wedding
- Practice weekly
- Memorize key points (don't read verbatim)
- Have backup notes on small cards

### Speech Structure

1. **Introduction:** Introduce yourself and relationship to couple
2. **Thank yous:** Thank hosts, parents, guests for attending
3. **Story:** Share meaningful anecdote about your relationship
4. **Partner appreciation:** Express what you love about your new spouse
5. **Looking forward:** Share hopes for your future together
6. **Toast:** Invite guests to raise glass to your marriage

### Speech Tips

- Speak from the heart
- Keep it clean and appropriate
- Avoid inside jokes that exclude guests
- Practice your toast out loud, not just in your head
- Make eye contact with your partner during key moments

- Consider recording yourself to improve delivery
- Remember to breathe and speak slowly

## What to Avoid

- Mentioning exes
- Embarrassing stories
- Drinking too much before speaking
- Reading directly from paper/phone
- Inside jokes that exclude most guests
- Going over 5 minutes

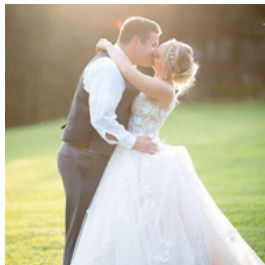
## Photography Preparation

### Before the Wedding

- Consider scheduling an engagement session to get comfortable in front of the camera
- Discuss any specific shots or styles you prefer with your photographer
- Share any insecurities or preferences about how you're photographed
- Plan groom and groomsmen photos (location, style, poses)
- Inform photographer of any special details to capture (cufflinks, watch, etc.)

### Day-Of Photo Tips

- **Getting ready photos:** Allow 30 minutes for photographer to capture details
- **Formal portraits:** Prepare list of important family groupings
- **First look:** Consider a private moment with your partner before ceremony
- **Candid moments:** Remember photographers are always watching - be present!
- **Detail shots:** Have all accessories ready for photographer upon arrival



### Looking Your Best in Photos

- Stand tall with shoulders back
- Angle body slightly instead of facing camera straight-on



- Button jacket when standing
- Keep hands relaxed, not in pockets
- Natural smile - think of something that genuinely makes you happy
- For formal poses, leave slight space between arms and body
- Practice your smile and find your "good side" beforehand

## Group Shot Tips

- Coordinate with best man to gather groomsmen quickly
- Plan fun/creative group shots in advance
- Consider generational photos (fathers, grandfathers)
- Allow 30 minutes minimum for groomsmen photos

## Wedding Day Schedule

### Sample Timeline

- **10:00 AM:** Breakfast with groomsmen
- **12:00 PM:** Begin getting ready (shower, shave, etc.)
- **1:00 PM:** Photographer arrives for groom prep photos
- **1:30 PM:** Get dressed with groomsmen
- **2:00 PM:** Formal portraits of groom and groomsmen
- **2:30 PM:** First look (if applicable)
- **3:00 PM:** Hide from arriving guests
- **3:30 PM:** Ceremony begins
- **4:00 PM:** Ceremony ends, formal family portraits
- **5:00 PM:** Cocktail hour
- **6:00 PM:** Grand entrance to reception
- **6:15 PM:** First dance
- **7:00 PM:** Dinner service
- **8:00 PM:** Toasts and speeches
- **8:30 PM:** Cake cutting
- **9:00 PM:** Dancing begins
- **11:00 PM:** Send-off

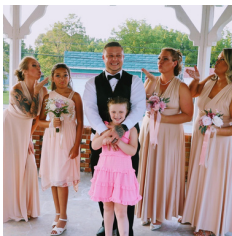
### Morning Preparation

- Eat a proper breakfast Stay hydrated (alternate water with any alcohol)
- Allow more time than you think for getting ready
- Keep phone charged for coordination
- Designate groomsmen to handle logistics and questions

- Take moments to breathe and be present

## **Ceremony Preparation**

- Arrive at ceremony site 45-60 minutes early
- Greet important guests as appropriate
- Have best man double-check rings
- Know where to stand during ceremony
- Practice any special elements (unity candle, etc.)
- Remember to smile as you wait at the altar



## **Reception Responsibilities**

- Grand entrance with wedding party
- First dance with spouse
- Dance with mother/mother figure
- Give toast/speech
- Cake cutting with spouse
- Thank guests throughout evening
- Final send-off coordination

## **Post-Wedding Responsibilities**

### **Honeymoon**

- [ ] Confirm all reservations before departure
- [ ] Arrange transportation to airport/destination
- [ ] Notify credit card companies of travel
- [ ] Exchange currency if needed
- [ ] Pack appropriate clothing/items
- [ ] Set email auto-responder

### **After Returning**

- [ ] Help write thank-you notes (within 3 months)

- ☐ Review vendors online
- ☐ Discuss photo album selections
- ☐ Update important documents (name change if applicable)
- ☐ Merge households/finances as planned
- ☐ Select and order prints for your home

### **Name Change Support (If Applicable)**

- ☐ Help partner gather necessary documents
- ☐ Accompany to appointments if needed
- ☐ Update joint accounts
- ☐ Update insurance beneficiaries
- ☐ Create system for organizing paperwork

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*This guide is provided by [Inspire Me Photography](#)*

*For personalized wedding photography that tells your unique love story, contact us at [\[contact@inspire-me-photography.com\]](mailto:contact@inspire-me-photography.com)*

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