

Wedding Planning Checklist

"A guide for keeping the DIY bride sane while planning her wedding. This easy to follow checklist offers a countdown to your big day listing the most important duties to tackle before you tie the knot. Quickie engagement? Simply bump up your timeline and take care of the most important details first." ~ [My Wedding Reception Ideas](#)

You're engaged! What next?

- Determine your budget
- Meet with family members who are sharing expenses to discuss financial expectations
- Set your wedding date
- Decide on guest size
- Open a Pinterest account (if you don't already have one!)
- Start pinning inspiration photos and ideas
- Research wedding gowns
- Find ceremony site
- Find reception site
- Book officiant
- Book photographer
- Book DJ

Engagement to 9 months before wedding

- Write out rough guest list
- Choose your theme and/or wedding colors
- Choose and ask your wedding party
- Book and take engagement photos
- Order Save the Dates (great time to show off your favorite engagement pics)

Go Shopping:

- Wedding gown
- Headpiece and veil
- Jewelry
- Shoes
- Book caterer
- Book cake maker
- Book florist
- Research wedding day music
- Start diet & exercise routine now to relieve stress and keep skin glowing

8 months to 6 months before wedding

- Create guest list with addresses
- Address and send save the dates
- Register for wedding gifts
- Research honeymoon spots
- Submit engagement photo to newspapers
- Shop for wedding party attire
- Discuss wedding colors with mother-of-the-bride and groom to arrange attire
- Research wedding day hairstyles
- Book make-up and hair appointments
- Choose ceremony musicians
- Look at wedding rings

Start shopping for ceremony & reception decor:

- Candles
- Lights
- Centerpieces
- Tablecloths
- Tulle, ribbon, and other fabric
- Signs
- Other props
- Candy buffet decorations
- Dinnerware (if the caterer is not providing)
- Barware
- Other: _____

5 months to 4 months before your wedding

- Attend showers and parties
- Meet with family members to discuss responsibilities of bar, rehearsal dinner, etc.
- Choose and ask readers for your ceremony
- Choose and ask ushers for your ceremony
- Meet with officiant to discuss expectations
- Attend any marriage classes required by your church
- Arrange wedding transportation
- Make reservations and book transportation for honeymoon
- Finalize wedding ring order

Order wedding stationery including:

- Invitations
- Envelopes, seals, and stamps
- Response cards
- Reception cards
- Direction cards
- Thank you cards (unless using a wedding day photo)

Order ceremony accessories:

- Unity candle or sand ceremony set
- Ring bearer pillow
- Flower girl basket
- Aisle runner
- Pew decorations
- Finalize bouquets with florist if needed

Order reception accessories:

- Guest book and/or signature mat and pen
- Napkins
- Guest favors
- Cake serving set
- Garter
- Toasting flutes
- Cake topper
- Card box

3 months to 2 months before your wedding

- Assemble invitations and take one to the post office to have weighed
- Mail out invitations (6-8 weeks before big day)

Finalize arrangements and orders with:

- Caterer
- Cake maker
- Florist
- Ceremony musicians
- DJ
- Photographer

- Use wedding guest list to keep track of the rsvp's that you receive. (Also useful for sending thank you's after your big day)
- Order wedding programs
- Get marriage license (and blood tests if required by your state)

Purchase the remainder of your decorations

Purchase gifts:

- Bridesmaids
- Groomsmen
- Flower girl
- Ringbearer
- Parents of the bride
- Parents of the groom
- Determine seating arrangements and write out place cards
- Write wedding vows
- Write toasts and speeches
- Finalize bar list and place order

Take care of and arrange legal details:

- Name change
- Bank accounts
- New social security card application

1 month before your wedding

- Make-up and hair run through
- Final fitting for wedding gown
- Remind bridesmaids to schedule alterations
- Organize wedding supplies to make sure you have everything
- Wrap gifts and write cards

Confirm duties with:

- Readers
- Ushers
- Bartenders
- Flower pinners
- Decorators
- Meet with DJ to discuss song lists, name pronunciations, etc.
- Stay hydrated and get plenty of rest

2 weeks before your wedding

- Confirm all services and reservations
- Give final guest count to caterer
- Pick up wedding gown
- Make envelopes for payment to vendors and write out the checks

1 week before your wedding

- Get rest and hydrate, hydrate, hydrate
- Pack for wedding night and honeymoon

Arrange wedding day emergency kit:

- Bobby pins
- Safety pins
- Nail glue
- Hairspray
- Make-up for emergency fixes
- Tissues
- Breathe, relax, and enjoy your new lives as husband and wife. Congrats! XOXO