

Wedding Planning Timeline

This detailed wedding planning timeline is based on a 9 month engagement and will guide you through the major to-do's when planning a wedding. Find the relevant section for a more detailed breakdown of what needs to be done and when for each and every wedding topic.

9 months before:

- Announce engagement
- Decide on budget
- Make tentative guest list
- Find wedding coordinator
- Set wedding date and time
- Book wedding ceremony location
- Book reception location
- Pick wedding theme/ style
- Pick wedding colors
- Select members of wedding party
- Create wedding website

8 months before:

- Book DJ or band
- Book wedding day transportation
- Book photographer and videographer
- Book florist
- Meet with ceremony officiant
- Start wedding dress shopping

7 months before:

- Select bride's gown (order at least 6 months in advance)
- Select bridesmaids' dresses (order at least 3 months in advance)
- Finalize guest list

6 months before:

- Save-the-date cards need to go out to out-of-town guests
- Any guests coming from countries where visas are required will need a real invite

5 months before:

- Register gift choices
- Plan hotel and transportation for out-of-town guests
- Order wedding invitations
- Order wedding cake

4 months before:

- Book wedding night suite
- Plan honeymoon
- Select and order wedding favors

3 months before:

- Order groom's attire (custom suits take about 4-6 weeks to make)
- Select groomsmen's attire
- Send out-of-town guests' invitations
- Select wedding bands

2 months before:

- Send invitations to in-town guests
- Finalize & book menu for rehearsal dinner
- Finalize menu for reception

1 month before:

- Purchase gifts for wedding party
- Plan reception seating
- Plan itinerary for out-of-town guests
- Finalize arrangements with DJ/band, florist, cake supplier, photographer, and videographer
- Get marriage license
- If necessary, get name-change forms

2 weeks before:

- Call guests who have not responded
- Confirm all hotel accommodations
- Have rehearsal and dinner
- Have bridesmaids' lunch
- Have groomsmen's day out
- Confirm wedding day transportation
- Confirm guest count with caterer
- Confirm time and location with officiant, florist, cake baker, photographer, DJ, and videographer

