

# Wedding Planning Timeline

## ASAP

*Ideally do these things immediately after getting engaged. But especially for the wedding dress, the absolute latest you should be doing these is 8 months before the wedding.*

- Make a Budget
- Choose Colors/Theme
- Buy your Wedding Dress
- Pick Wedding Party & Ask Them
- Research/Visit Venues & Book a Date
- Book a Caterer (if the venue doesn't do this themselves)
- Decide How Bridesmaid's Dresses Will Work & Communicate with Them
- (For Catholics) Contact your Parish & Schedule your Pre-Cana Class
- (For Catholics) Choose & Ask Main Priest to Celebrate Mass
- Start Attending Pre-marital Counseling

## 7 Months Out

- Book a Photographer/Videographer
- Book Wedding & Reception Music
- Book Flowers
- Book Hotel Block
- Renew Your Passports (if you might honeymoon abroad)

## 6 Months Out

- Make the Guest List
- Take Engagement Photos
- Make Wedding Website
- Make Wedding Gift Registry
- Send a Save the Date

## 5 Months Out

*These things don't need to be at this time specifically, but this period is a bit of a natural lull. So you can fit odds and ends here.*

- Organize Alcohol
- Book the Honeymoon
- Order Wedding Bands
- Plan Menu with Caterer
- Book Hair & Makeup Stylist
- Book Rehearsal Dinner Venue
- Book transportation (if needed)
- Start Attending Dancing Lessons (if needed)
- Monitor Wedding Registry & Add More Things if It's Running Out

## 4 Months Out

- Wedding Cake Tasting & Order
- Schedule final catering tasting
- Groom & Groomsmen Suit/Tux Fittings
- Book Appointment for Marriage License
- Buy Thank You Gifts for Wedding Party/Parents

### 3 Months Out

- Order Invitations
- Get Marriage License
  - *Check your local laws; our state allowed up to 60 days before the wedding.*
- Buy Favors / Gift Bags
- (For Catholics) Pick Mass Readings
- Start Making/Buying DIY Decorations
- Design Printed Materials
  - ex. Menu, Wedding Program, Welcome Signs, Seating Chart, Placecards
- Send Playlist to Reception DJ/Musicians

### 2 Months Out

*Enjoy the lull!*

- Collect & Track RSVP's
- Assemble Favors/Gift Bags
- Order Printed Material
- Finish Making DIY Decorations
- Enjoy your Bachelor/Bachelorette Party

### 1 Months Out

- Hair and Makeup Trial
- Finalize Seating Chart & Send to Venue
- Finalize Dinner Choices & Send to Caterer
- Pay Vendors in Full
- Final Dress Fitting
- Break in Wedding Shoes
- Checkin with All Vendors
- Give Shot List to Photographer

### 1 Week Out

- Practice Vows
- Pack for Honeymoon
- Do Final Venue Walkthrough
- Confirm Timing with Vendors
- Have Wedding Bands Cleaned/Polished
- Prepare Cash Tip Envelopes for Vendors
- Pack a Small Emergency Kit for the Day-of
- Have Wedding Dress & Groom's Attire Steamed
- Send Out Timeline/Contact Info to Wedding Party, Vendors, Parents
  - Where Everyone Should be & When
  - Include Everyone's Contact Info
  - Remind Everyone of their Tasks/Roles

### Rehersal Day

- Give Marriage License to Officiant
- Give Gifts to Wedding Party & Parents
- Give Wedding Bands to Best Man / Maid of Honor
- Move Everything to Where It Needs to Be
  - Decorations, Signs, Alcohol, etc

- Go to Bed Early & Get a Good Night's Sleep

## **Day Of**

*Relax and Enjoy!*

It helps to have one person on hand that is ready to run out last minute and buy something if you need it.

Give everything in your pockets to one of the Groomsmen/Bridesmaids. Delegate all tasks that come up so that you can enjoy the day.

Don't drink or eat too much. Focus on light, healthy food and drinks so that you're feeling your best.

Otherwise, there is absolutely nothing you can do at this point if you forgot something. So just relax and enjoy the day.

## **After The Wedding**

- Do Time Sensitive Legal Things
  - ex. Change Insurance within 30-day Life-Event Window
- Preserve Wedding Dress (if you want)
- Return Rentals & Anything you Borrowed
- Legally Change your Name (if applicable)
- Open Your Gifts & Track Who Sent What
- Write & Send Thank You Cards
- Save Some Cake in your Freezer for your 1st Wedding Anniversary
- Get the Wedding Pictures/Video, Share Them, & Back them Up Somewhere