



love + life stories

wedding planning timeline + checklist

12-16 months before

- Choose wedding date
- Set wedding budget + determine how costs will be divided
- Start wedding file
- Decide on desired style + formality of wedding
- Visit + reserve ceremony/reception venue(s)
- Start shopping for wedding gown
- Hire a planner or day-of coordinator

8-11 months before

- Select bridal party
- Find + hire an officiant
- Hire a caterer {if venue does not offer one}
- Contract florist, photographer, videographer, DJ/band
- Choose bridesmaids' attire
- Begin compiling names + addresses for guest list
- Register for gifts
- Select + order wedding gown
- Create a wedding website

5-7 months before

- Finalize guest list
- Take engagement pictures
- Send save-the-date announcements
- Shop for wedding invitations
- Arrange accommodations + transportation
- Go cake tasting + order cake
- Reserve any rental items needed for ceremony/reception
- Meet with officiant
- Begin honeymoon preparations

3-4 months before

- Mail invitations
- Shop for wedding bands
- Choose groom + groomsmen's attire {tuxedos/suits}
- Find hair + makeup artist; make trial + day-of appointments
- Finalize menu + costs with caterer
- Order wedding favors
- Buy wedding party gifts
- Begin pre-marital counseling with officiant {or other professional}

1-2 months before

- Design wedding programs
- Select location for rehearsal dinner
- Send rehearsal dinner invitations
- Schedule fitting and final alterations for wedding gown
- Choose all wedding accessories
- Pick all wedding music
- Write wedding vows
- Apply for marriage license
- Meet with all vendors to finalize + confirm details

2-4 weeks before

- Contact any non-RSVP guests
- Give caterer final head count
- Create floor plan + seating chart
- Print programs + escort cards
- Confirm rehearsal plans with all parties involved
- Pick up marriage license
- Have final dress fitting
- Confirm arrival time for all persons involved in wedding
- Contact all vendors with final confirmation of details

1 week before

- Make any necessary last-minute seating adjustments
- Organize wedding day attire
- Confirm all accommodations for out-of-town guests
- Confirm honeymoon reservations
- Pack for honeymoon
- Pick up passports + prepare any documents needed for travel
- Give any checks/tips to wedding coordinator to distribute to vendors
- Pick up all formalwear {wedding dress, tuxedos, etc.}

1 day before

- Go through checklist to confirm everything has been completed
- Pack wedding day emergency kit {give to maid of honor to hold}
- Gather all necessary accessories + hang wedding dress
- Get manicure + pedicure
- Give rings to best man
- Have ceremony rehearsal + rehearsal dinner {flexible}
- Hand everything over to coordinator to manage
- Rest! Even though you're going to be really excited, try your best to get a good night's sleep.

Wedding Day

- Eat a light breakfast {avoid anything with caffeine or sugars}
- Get hair + makeup done
- Get married! Relax, have fun, and make wonderful memories with your family + friends!

After the honeymoon

- Write + send out thank you cards
- Dry clean/preserve wedding gown
- Legally change name on all documents + accounts
- Enjoy married life!