**11-12 Months Before Your Wedding**

Decide on the budget.

Start the guest list.

Determine a time frame for your wedding date. Narrow down your wedding date to a few

weekends that don’t conflict with other family events.

Choose a color scheme and theme (if desired) for your big day.

Search for a ceremony venue.

Search for a reception venue.

**10 Months Before Your Wedding**

Book your ceremony venue. Create deposits/payments schedule.

Book your reception venue. Create deposits/payments schedule.

Choose the members of your wedding party - Maid of Honor and Best Man, Bridesmaids,

Groomsmen, Ring Bearer, Flower Girl, Ushers, etc and invite them to take these roles.

Create your wedding website.

Search for a caterer.

Search for a photographer.

Search for a videographer.

Search for a florist.

Search for a band and/or DJ.

Select save-the-date cards and order.

**9 Months Before Your Wedding**

Set up your registries. Add registries page to your wedding website.

Book your caterer. Create deposits/payments schedule. Begin working on a menu.

Book your photographer and schedule engagement photo shoot. Create deposits/payments

schedule.

Book your videographer. Create deposits/payments schedule.

Book your florist. Create deposits/payments schedule.

Book your band and/or DJ. Create deposits/payments schedule.

Search for an officiant.

Book your officiant. Create deposits/payments schedule.

Reserve blocks of hotel rooms for out-of-town guests. Add accommodations and travel info to

your wedding website, so your guests know what to expect.

Send save-the-date cards (be sure your guest list is finalized first). Include hotel information

for out-of-town guests, if it’s available, plus your website address.

Start shopping for your gown.

**8 Months Before Your Wedding**

Select your wedding dress and place the order. Create deposits/payments schedule.

Search for a wedding cake baker.

Order your wedding cake. Create deposits/payments schedule.

Finalize floral arrangements and design with florist.

Search for a wedding stationer for invitations, plus place cards, menus, announcements (if

you’ll use them) and thank you stationery (which you may need to order now).

Search for a ceremony musician.

Book your invitations vendor. Create deposits/payments schedule.

Book your ceremony musician. Create deposits/payments schedule.

Discuss rehearsal dinner — who will host? Whoever is hosting should begin searching for a

venue. You will also need to negotiate who will be invited.

**7 Months Before Your Wedding**

Purchase accessories for your gown, such as a veil, shoes, undergarments, and jewelry.

Search for a vendor to help with your hair, makeup, or any pre-wedding pampering.

Book your hair and makeup trial appointment.

Attend engagement photo shoot with photographer.

Select your Maid of Honor, Bridesmaid’s, and Flower Girl dresses, and have your

Attendants place their orders.

Select your Groom, Best Man, Groomsmen’s, Ring Bearer, and Ushers’ attire, and have your

Attendants place their orders. These can be rented or purchased.

Rehearsal dinner host should finalize venue.

Book accommodations for your wedding night.

Plan and book your honeymoon, including travel, accommodations, and activities.

**6 Months Before Your Wedding**

Finalize the text for your invitations and place the order. Also consider purchasing thank you

notes and wedding announcements from the same vendor.

Finalize the menu and service details with your caterer.

Choose your Maid of Honor, Bridesmaid’s, and Flower Girl’s accessories (shoes, jewelry, etc.).

Purchase or pass along the purchasing information.

Choose your Groom, Best Man, Groomsmen’s, Ring Bearer, and Ushers’ accessories (shoes,

etc. Purchase or pass along the purchasing information.

Purchase your wedding bands and order any inscriptions if desired.

Check your gift registry. If items on your list have been discontinued, you may want to update

the registry.

Design and start creation of favors.

**5 Months Before Your Wedding**

Discuss and confirm party plans for bachelor and bachelorette parties, as well as any

shower(s) that is offered, with your Maid of Honor and Best Man.

For an international honeymoon, begin to get your papers in order (passport, birth certificate,

visas, vaccinations, etc.).

Ask your readers to be a part of your ceremony. Begin a search for readings, and discuss them

with your officiant.

If you are handling any Attendant’s orders, confirm the delivery date.

Schedule your gown fitting appointments. Your first appointment should be directly after you

receive the gown, and the last appointment should fall no later than three weeks before the

wedding.

Provide guest lists to your Maid of Honor and Best Man for your shower, bachelorette party,

bachelor party, and other social events.

Search for a transportation vendor (limo, bus for guests, etc.)

Book your transportation vendor. Create deposits/payments schedule.

**4 Months Before Your Wedding**

Stuff and send out wedding invitations.

Track gifts received from guests and send thank you notes.

Check on your hotel room blocks to ensure important guests have made their travel

arrangements.

Design your ceremony programs and print them. Create menu cards for the reception tables,

if you’ll be using them.

Research local marriage license requirements. Schedule a blood test appointment if one is

required in your state.

Don’t forget to check when the license expires and if there is a waiting period.

Decide on a guest book option.

Purchase or make gifts for your bridal party and close family. Don’t forget all of your

Attendants and people participating in the ceremony.

**3 Months Before Your Wedding**

Alert your wedding party to the rehearsal. The rehearsal dinner host should send rehearsal

dinner invitations.

Obtain a marriage license. Follow your state’s guidelines concerning how soon you can apply,

and how long the license is valid for.

If you have a band and/or DJ, work on a list of ‘must-play’ and ‘do-not play’ songs. Be sure

you also send them selections for your introductions, first dance, cake cutting,

father/daughter dance, anniversary dance, and last dance.

Determine your ceremony music selections and send the list to your ceremony musicians.

Shop for all additional accessories like undergarments, jewelry, headpiece, bridal purse, etc.

Create a wedding day schedule. Send the information to your wedding party and vendors.

Finalize any special preferences, readings, or other ceremony details (in writing) with your

officiant.

Notify your Maid of Honor/Mother/or friend to attend your final gown fitting so they can

learn how the bustle will be tied.

**2 Months Before Your Wedding**

Verify with your reception venue to make sure your vendors will have access to the site when

they need it.

Confirm delivery locations, times, and final arrangements with your florist. Make a list of

who will get bouquets, corsages, and boutonnieres, and recruit someone to oversee this on

the wedding day.

Confirm the rehearsal details and wedding day schedule with your officiant.

Have the Groom pick up the tuxedo/suit and try it on at the shop. See if there are any

additional alterations to be made.

Confirm location, date, and time with your photographer. Create your ‘must-take’ photo list.

Confirm location, date, and time with your videographer.

Confirm all honeymoon travel plans. Give someone a copy of your itinerary and contact

information in case of an emergency.

Shop and pack for the honeymoon.

If you’re having a receiving line, determine the order everyone will stand in.

**1 Months Before Your Wedding**

If you have guests attending from out of town who have children, help them by locating

babysitting options for them.

Write your vows if you choose to personalize them. Send a copy to your officiant.

Pick up wedding rings and check the inscriptions before you leave the store.

Call guests who have not yet RSVP’d for the wedding and rehearsal dinner to get a final head

count.

Create your seating chart. Make place cards or give typed names to your calligrapher if

applicable.

Give the seating chart to your caterer, reception venue manager, and wedding coordinator.

Prepare your toasts and thanks to friends and family.

Send your transportation vendor the schedule, addresses, and contact phone numbers for the

wedding day.

Confirm all final payment amounts with your vendors. Mail your payment checks or make

arrangements for the wedding day.

**1 Week Before Your Wedding**

Give final head count to the caterer. Confirm set-up instructions and menu items.

Confirm number of bouquets, boutonnieres, and centerpieces with your florist.

Confirm head count, delivery time, and location with your wedding cake vendor.

Pick up your gown. Before leaving the shop, try it on to make sure there are no additional

alterations to be made.

Drop off favors, place cards, guest book, pens, cake knife, toasting flutes, and all other

reception items at the reception venue.

Pull together wedding gown, veil, shoes, stockings, and a last-minute emergency kit (aspirin,

makeup, hairspray, safety pins, mints, etc.).

**After Your Wedding**

Arrange for gown and veil to be cleaned and preserved. Make sure the provider is

experienced in preserving wedding gowns.

Take the bridal bouquet to be preserved, or save a petal to be pressed for your scrapbook.

Do paperwork for official documents if you are changing your name.

Write thank you notes for all the gifts you received at the wedding and before. Traditional

etiquette gives you an 8-week grace period.