



12 Months Before

- Announce your engagement to family and friends. Facebook, text, and email, are fine for most, but call your parents.
- Update your Facebook relationship status from In a Relationship to Engaged.
- If your parents insist, place an engagement announcement in your local newspaper.
- Sign up for a wedding website to keep your guests apprised of all the important details. There are lots of free ones out there at sites like The Knot and WeddingWire.
- Come up with a budget. Try our [Wedding Budget Worksheet](#).
- Choose a wedding date.
- Choose a location and reserve your ceremony and reception site.
- Begin a rough guest list and compile current addresses.
- Decide on the members of your wedding party. Download and print the free [Will You Be My Bridesmaid](#) card to send to the lucky ladies.
- Begin shopping for your wedding gown.
- Attend a local bridal show for freebies and ideas.

6-9 Months Before

- Sign up for one or several gift registries. Be sure to add any links on your wedding website.
- Order your wedding gown.
- Buy the undergarments that you will wear with your gown. Be sure to bring these and your shoes to all fittings.
- Order other bridal accessories like [shoes](#), [jewelry](#), a garter, and a [veil](#).
- Begin shopping for [bridesmaids dresses](#). An easy alternative is to select a color and let your bridesmaids pick the dress they want.
- Find and book an officiant who will perform your ceremony.
- Find and book ceremony musicians.
- Find and book a wedding band or DJ.
- Find and book a photographer and videographer.
- Find and book a caterer.
- Find and book a florist.

4-6 Months Before

- Select and order your [wedding invitations](#) and thank you cards. Check out our free [thank you cards](#).
- Select and purchase wedding favors. [Candy buffets](#) are an easy alternative.
- Purchase any desired ceremony and reception decorations, such as a runner, [photo booth props](#), candy buffet jars, etc.
- Start researching [wedding cake pictures](#) for inspiration. Don't forget to consider [cupcakes](#), [cake pops](#), and [mini cakes](#)!
- Book your honeymoon and make sure your passport is up to date.



- Book your hotel reservation, if necessary.
- Book hotel rooms or arrange other accommodations for out-of-town guests.
- Finalize your guest list and send out [save-the-date cards](#).
- Update wedding website with locations, directions, times, and any other wedding-related information.
- Reserve transportation for you and your wedding party to and from the wedding.

2-4 Months Before

- Find out what your state's requirements are for obtaining a marriage license and get blood tests, if required.
- Order tuxedos for the groom and groomsmen. Or dress up a button up shirt and khakis with a [bow tie](#).
- Meet with your caterer to discuss the menu and your bar/liquor needs.
- Meet with your officiant to discuss ceremony details, wording and wedding vows.
- Select your wedding readings.
- Order your wedding cake.
- Buy thank you gifts for your bridesmaids and groomsmen. Need help? See our [bridesmaid gift ideas](#).
- Shop for a gift for your new spouse-to-be.
- Select and purchase [wedding rings](#).
- Choose and reserve a location for the rehearsal dinner.
- Contact party rental companies for tents, tables, arches, etc.
- Book any other specialty services such as ice sculptures and photo booths.
- Purchase luggage and other travel necessities or attire for your honeymoon.
- Schedule an appointment with your dentist for a cleaning or whitening. Sometimes they will give brides a whitening for free.

1-2 Months Before

- Mail invitations out to everyone eight weeks prior to the wedding date.
- Compile and complete name change documents.
- Pick up your marriage license.
- Have [ceremony programs](#) printed.
- Purchase a [wedding guest book](#), pen and other wedding accessories including toasting glasses, cake knife, ring pillow, etc.
- Choose your hair and makeup stylists and schedule a trial and wedding day appointment.
- Review insurance information with your fiancé to see what needs to be updated once you are legally wed (car, home, medical, life insurance, etc.).

2 Weeks to 1 Month Before

- Follow up with unresponsive guests to get an accurate head count.



- Create a seating chart for the reception.
- Order or make [reception table numbers](#) and place cards.
- Contact your caterer with a final guest count.
- Print out a timeline of events for your wedding party and vendors – include contact information and cell phone numbers.
- Meet with your photographer to finalize your wedding photo list of any must-have photos.
- Contact your florist to confirm your final flower order and go over any décor details or venue logistics.
- Finalize your ceremony and reception music and song lists with your band or DJ.
- Plan a bridal lunch or dinner with your bridesmaids.
- Pick up wedding bands.
- Schedule a final wedding dress fitting.
- Write rehearsal dinner toasts.

1 Week Before

- Pick up your wedding gown.
- Confirm limo or other transportation reservations.
- Pack for your honeymoon and confirm travel arrangements.
- Have your post office hold your mail, if necessary.
- Treat yourself to a spa day to relax.

The Day Before

- Attend the rehearsal.
- Pass out gifts to your wedding party.
- Enjoy the rehearsal dinner.

The Wedding Day

- Have a third-party deliver your spouse-to-be's gift.
- Eat a healthy breakfast.
- Follow the timeline. If you're running behind, it's ok. They can't start the ceremony without you.
- Enjoy your day. Have fun, accept that something will not go as planned, and enjoy the beginning of your new life.