

Wedding Planning Checklist

A month-by-month checklist for a wedding with a 12-month engagement. Shorter engagement? Start at the row that matches your timeline and do the earlier tasks first.

12+ MONTHS BEFORE

- ☐ Agree on a total budget and who is contributing
- ☐ Draft a first guest list and headcount range
- ☐ Choose a season and a few possible dates
- ☐ Shortlist and visit venues
- ☐ Book the ceremony and reception venues
- ☐ Decide on a wedding planner or coordinator
- ☐ Start a shared planning folder or spreadsheet

10–12 MONTHS BEFORE

- ☐ Book photographer and videographer
- ☐ Book officiant
- ☐ Book caterer (if not included with venue)
- ☐ Launch your wedding website
- ☐ Send save the dates (destination weddings: now)
- ☐ Reserve hotel room blocks for guests

8–10 MONTHS BEFORE

- ☐ Choose wedding attire and order it (allow for alterations)
- ☐ Book band or DJ
- ☐ Book florist
- ☐ Choose the wedding party
- ☐ Start a registry or honeymoon fund

6–8 MONTHS BEFORE

- ☐ Send save the dates (local weddings)
- ☐ Book hair and makeup
- ☐ Order or design invitations
- ☐ Plan the honeymoon and check passports
- ☐ Book transport for the day
- ☐ Order the cake or dessert

4–6 MONTHS BEFORE

- ☐ Finalise the guest list and collect addresses
- ☐ Plan the ceremony with your officiant

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- ☐ Buy wedding rings
- ☐ Book the rehearsal dinner venue
- ☐ Choose favours and welcome bags

2–3 MONTHS BEFORE

- ☐ Send invitations (6–8 weeks before; destination 10–12 weeks)
- ☐ Set the RSVP deadline 3–4 weeks before the day
- ☐ Apply for the marriage licence (check timing rules)
- ☐ Write your vows
- ☐ First dress or suit fitting
- ☐ Confirm details with every vendor

1 MONTH BEFORE

- ☐ Chase outstanding RSVPs
- ☐ Give final numbers to caterer and venue
- ☐ Create the seating chart
- ☐ Write the day-of timeline and share it with vendors
- ☐ Final fitting
- ☐ Break in your wedding shoes

1 WEEK BEFORE

- ☐ Confirm arrival times with every vendor
- ☐ Prepare final payments and tips in envelopes
- ☐ Pack for the honeymoon
- ☐ Delegate day-of tasks to family or the wedding party
- ☐ Send guests a reminder with maps and timings

AFTER THE WEDDING

- ☐ Return rentals
- ☐ Send thank-you notes within three months
- ☐ Change names on documents (if applicable)
- ☐ Leave reviews for your vendors
- ☐ Back up photos and videos