

Wedding Planning Timeline

9 - 12 Months

- Announce engagement to family & friends
- Arrange for formal engagement photograph
- Shop for engagement ring
- Set wedding date & time
- Set up wedding budget you can live with
- Decide who is contributing what financially
- Hire wedding consultant if you plan to use one
- Select your wedding attendants
- Decide style and color scheme of wedding
- Reserve wedding and reception sites
- Meet with officiant to discuss pre-marital counseling
- Select photographer, videographer, DJ or band, florist, and the wedding service caterer, emcee and schedule planning meetings
- Determine size of wedding guest list
- Start compiling guest list addresses
- Choose your gown, veil & accessories
- Select your bridesmaids outfits
- Begin researching your honeymoon
- Buy a memory album & start your personal journal

6 - 8 Months

- Begin any required pre-marital counseling
- Discuss wedding vows
- Order your bridal gown & confirm delivery date
- Order headpiece & other accessories
- Order bridesmaids dresses & accessories
- Research invitation styles
- Finalize invitation wording
- Decide on necessary invitation inserts
- Order invitations, inserts, announcements, thank you notes, napkins, reception place cards, etc (proof read !!)
- Reserve all rental equipment (tents, chairs, etc)
- Decide on reception decorations
- Begin researching wedding cake designers
- Discuss & reserve wedding transportation
- Register for wedding gifts
- Keep a careful record of all gifts received
- Write thank you notes immediately
- Finalize honeymoon plans & make any deposits

4-5 Months

- Shop for wedding rings
- Complete guest list
- Plan ceremony decorations
- Make final arrangements for ceremony including readings
- Meet with organist/soloist to select music for ceremony
- Have mothers coordinate and select their dresses
- Reserve mens formal wear
- Pick up printed invitations (proof read again !!)
- Address invitations & announcements
- Make or buy favors for guests
- Arrange for guest parking at ceremony & reception site
- Finalize menu & confirm all details with caterer
- Order cake & cake topper
- Select flowers for bridal party
- Select flowers for ceremony & reception
- Check requirements for getting a marriage license in your state
- Finalize living arrangements for your new life
- Discuss whether or not to have a prenuptial agreement
- Plan rehearsal dinner
- Research passport & visa requirements
- Write thank you notes immediately

3 Months

- Coordinate accommodations for out of town guests
- Review ceremony with officiant
- Select ceremony music
- If using personalized wedding vows, begin writing them
- Schedule first bridal gown fitting
- Schedule first bridesmaids gown fitting
- Shop for bridal lingerie
- Experiment with makeup & hair styles
- Make all hair, nail & makeup appointments
- Make sure all attire for flower girl & ring bearer has been ordered
- Discuss reception traditions you plan on using
- Order table numbers & menu cards for reception
- Have all accessories...toasting glasses, garter, ring pillow, candles, guestbook/Pen, etc
- Consider taking dance lessons if desired
- Finalize plans for wedding rehearsal & rehearsal dinner
- Shop for honeymoon clothes
- Obtain all passport & visa requirements
- Write thank you notes immediately