

Before "I Do" List



10+ months before

- Announce your engagement
- Choose a wedding date
- Create a preliminary budget. Decide what type of wedding you want (size, formality, style, color scheme, etc.)
- Create a binder/planner to organize thoughts and ideas and keep track throughout
- Begin developing the guest list
- Make and send "Be my bridesmaid" invites and gifts
- Groom ask groomsmen
- Create a wedding website
- Research/book a venue for ceremony
- Research/book a venue for reception
- Select officiant/clergy
- Hire a wedding planner (if needed) or enlist family members for different planning stages.
- Start researching vendors (photographers, florists, baker, music band, etc.)
- Schedule save-the-date/engagement photos
- Engagement party
- Attend wedding expos or related events for ideas and information.
- _____
- _____

7-10 months before

- Start thinking about wedding invitation design
- Start thinking about groom's ring design and wedding bands
- Purchase the wedding dress.
- Find an alterations specialist (if different from bridal dress vendor)
- Shop for wedding dress accessories
- Purchase the groom's suit/book tuxedo
- Book tuxedos for groomsmen, ushers and ring bearer(s)
- Decide on bridesmaids dresses and flower girl dress(es)
- Mail out save-the-date
- Engagement photos
- Book venue and food for rehearsal dinner
- Decide and book honeymoon plans and flights

Before "I Do" List



- If traveling abroad, check on visas/passports/documentation
- Reserve a block of rooms for out of town guests
- Create registry
- Narrow down guest list and compile addresses and contact information
- Start thinking about décor for ceremony and reception (colors, layout, lighting, etc.)
- Research music bands/DJs
- Book florist/decide on flower arrangements if DIY
- Book any site rentals you need (lighting, chairs/tables, dinnerware, limos, sound system, etc.)
- Sign up for dance lessons (if needed)
- _____
- _____

5-7 months before

- Finalize order of ceremony and timeline (readings, toasts, first dance, bouquet toss, etc.)
- Finalize legal documents with officiant
- Decide on guests for rehearsal dinner
- Finalize guest list for bridal shower, bachelorette party and bachelor party
- Purchase bridesmaids dresses
- Purchase wedding accessories (shoes, veil, undergarments, jewelry)
- Book music bands/DJs
- Book photographers/videographers
- Decide on/purchase/make guest book
- Purchase wedding invitations and thank-you cards
- Purchase thank-you cards for post-wedding
- Order groom's ring/wedding bands
- Wedding dress fitting
- _____
- _____

3-5 months before

- Research bakery vendors for wedding cake
- Start thinking about gifts for the wedding party
- Finalize honeymoon itinerary
- Think about day-of timeline

Before "I Do" List



- _____
- _____

2-3 months before

- Order wedding cake
- Book transportation for wedding day (limo, guest shuttles, etc.)
- Finalize menus with reception vendors
- Order flowers for ceremony/reception
- Mail out invitations
- Book the hair stylist and do a trial run
- Book the make-up artist and do a trial run
- Purchase gifts for wedding party and parents
- Order wedding bands
- _____
- _____

1 month before

- Apply for a marriage license
- Go for a final wedding dress fitting
- Make sure bridesmaids have their dresses
- Make sure groomsmen have their tuxedos/suits
- Make a program for the ceremony
- Confirm details with vendors
- Create favor baskets for out of town guests
- Plan rehearsal dinner
- Check RSVPs against guest list
- Write your wedding vows
- Pick up wedding bands
- _____
- _____

2 weeks before

- Reach out to guests who haven't RSVP'ed
- Finalize music list with band/DJ
- Finalize portrait lists and must-have shots with photographer

Before "I Do" List



- Break in your shoes
- _____
- _____

1 week before

- Finalize seating arrangements for reception and print place cards
- Provide reception site with final guest count and ask how many extra meals will be prepared
- Provide reception/ceremony sites with vendor contact information, schedule of vendor delivery/setup times
- Call all vendors and confirm arrangements
- Pay any vendor balances due
- Start packing for honeymoon
- Groom schedule a hair trim
- Bride schedule facial/grooming appointments
- _____
- _____

2-3 days before

- Schedule manicure/pedicure
- Have the wedding gown pressed/steamed (if necessary)
- Finalize order of wedding party in processional and recessional
- Provide wedding planner/reception site with place cards, table cards, party favors, menus, guestbook & other items for setting the tables
- Deliver welcome favor baskets to hotel, include names and delivery instructions
- Confirm pick-up times and location with transportation vendors
- Confirm any last minute details with vendors
- Groom gets final fitting and pick up his formalwear
- _____
- _____

Day before

- Attend rehearsal dinner
- Give wedding party their gifts at the rehearsal dinner
- Bring ceremony accessories to the site (runner, unity candles, glasses, etc.)
- Provide officiant with your marriage license

Before "I Do" List



- _____
- _____

Day of

- Give parents their gifts
- Provide best man/maid of honor with the wedding bands to hold for ceremony
- Provide the photographer with a contact from wedding party, if necessary
- Provide the best man with officiant's fee envelope to handle after ceremony
- Provide the wedding planner with a contact from wedding party for questions
- Bring wedding vows
- _____
- _____

Post-wedding

- Return all rentals
- Arrange for wedding gown to be cleaned
- Arrange for groomsmen to return tuxedos
- Arrange for any gifts to be transported
- Arrange for any rental equipment to be returned
- Write and send thank-you notes
- _____
- _____

Other

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Wedding Checklists



Things to bring to ceremony/reception

Bride:

- Gown – make sure it is pressed
- Headpiece/veil
- Undergarments
- Hosiery & garter
- Shoes
- Jewelry and accessories
- Outerwear (if needed)

Groom:

- Suit, vest, shirt
- Tie/bowtie
- Shoes and socks
- Cufflinks

- Wedding rings
- Ring bearer pillow/flower girl basket
- Marriage license
- Wedding programs or bulletins
- Guestbook and pens
- Favors
- Cake knife and server, toasting flutes
- Unity candle (and lighter/matches if necessary)
- Checks for officiant and vendors
- Flowers (if not delivered by florist) including corsages, boutonnieres, decorations, bouquets, etc.
- Ceremony/reception decorations
- Send-off items (birdseeds, bubbles, doves, petals, butterflies or balloons)
- Assign person to collect/transport gifts
- Phone numbers for wedding party, wedding coordinator and vendors

Wedding Checklists



Emergency Kit List

- Sewing kit (needles, thread, safety pins, scissors)
- Nail care (emery board, nail glue, manicure set, nail polish—color for nails and clear polish for stocking runs)
- Skin care (cleanser, moisturizer, lotion)
- Hair care (brush/comb, hair spray, bobby pins)
- Tampons/pads
- Toothpaste, toothbrush, mouthwash, floss, breath mints
- Hand mirror, make up, tweezers
- Disposable wipes, tissues
- Advil/painkillers, allergy meds, stomach meds, antacids
- Deodorant
- Chapstick
- Bottled water
- Cash (coins and bills)
- Plastic bags
- Contacts solution (if needed), eye drops
- Straws for drinking
- Band-Aids, blister treatment
- Fashion tape
- Stain remover spray bottle, white cloth
- Extra nylons
- Lint roller
- Black socks (for the groom)
- Granola bars



Name Change Documents

- Social Security
- Bank and credit card accounts
- Driver's license
- Passport
- Auto registration
- Deeds/Titles
- Insurance policies (auto, home, life)
- Credit reporting agencies
- Investment accounts
- 401-K or other retirement accounts
- Medical and dental insurance
- Employee records and payroll
- Voter registration records
- Tax records (state and federal)
- Stock certificates
- Post Office records
- Will/trusts
- Memberships – airline mileage accounts, alumni/school associations
- Electric and other utility companies
- Landlord or mortgage company

Wedding Checklists



Details Brides Often Forget...

- A pretty hanger for your wedding dress. Especially if you want to have the classic photo of your dress hanging up before you put it on.
- Bring your marriage license to the ceremony.
- If there is reserved sitting for family members, let them know about it.
- Vendor meals. Feed the people who are working hard to make your wedding day unforgettable: music band members, photographer, videographer, wedding planner and assistants.
- Bring any tech chargers. Have your electronics charged and ready to go, especially if planning on taking pictures/videos throughout the whole day.
- A full invitation suite. Perfect for photos during getting ready.
- Bring extra cash in small bills and coins. Perfect for tipping vendors during the day.
- International travel documents. Make sure you have a valid passport and any visas needed for your honeymoon plans in advance.
- Bring the cake knife and toasting flutes.
- Assign duties. Whether it is for someone to collect and take care of the gifts, or someone to pick up your dress after the reception, you will need the extra help.
- Prepare a thank-you speech. It is great for the bride and groom to thank parents, bridal party members, and anyone else who supported them through the wedding planning.
- Create a “Just Married” sign.
- Pack an emergency day-of kit.
- Eat! Not only dinner, but your cake too.