
THE ULTIMATE
BUDGET-SAVVY
WEDDING
PLANNING
TIMELINE + CHECKLIST

Every task and to-do you need to
tackle from now until your big day!





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DO THESE THINGS ASAP!

WHEN YOU FIRST GET ENGAGED...

- Take a moment to soak in your joy before you start down the rabbit hole of wedding planning!
- Share your happy news with your family and friends - announce your engagement or have an engagement party!
- Grab a copy of our book, The Budget-Savvy Wedding Planner & Organizer, to keep yourself on track.
[Click here to buy.](#)

GETTING STARTED

10-12 MONTHS TO THE WEDDING DAY

- Discuss your wedding vision with your partner. Decide on your top 3 wedding priorities.
- Start your vendor research. Ask for recommendations from family and friends.
- Sit down with all contributing parties and set your maximum wedding budget.
- Open a separate bank account for your wedding funds and start saving up!
- Set your initial guest list. Make a list of all the people you'd like to include in an ideal world.
- Research photographers for your big day. Secure your top pick and pay a deposit to hold your date.
- Choose your wedding theme or color scheme, and start collecting wedding inspiration.
- Select your bridal party members and ask them to be in your wedding!
- Decide on a general wedding date and time. Research potential venues in your budget, and book your favorite!
- If the budget allows, book a wedding planner or day-of-coordinator to oversee your day.
- Determine which parts of your day you can DIY or accomplish with the help of friends.
- Consider signing up for a rewards credit card to earn airline miles for your honeymoon.



GOT THE BASICS? ON TO PHASE 2:

8-10 MONTHS TO THE WEDDING DAY

- Look at your wedding budget and determine how you'd like to allocate it among the different vendors.
- Keep records of each expense and vendor payment to keep up with your spending.
- Research caterers, schedule tastings, and book your favorite option in your budget.
- Gather flower and decor inspiration. Find and hire a florist if not DIYing.
- Finalize your guest list and collect addresses from your guests.
- Schedule and take your engagement photos with your photographer!
- Start your wedding dress research and schedule appointments to try on your favorites.
- Decide on your partner's look, too. Have your partner try on and select wedding attire.
- Decide on bridesmaids and groomsmen attire, and place orders for each.
- Create a wedding website to share your plans and info with your loved ones.

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS:

6-8 MONTHS TO THE WEDDING DAY

- Find an officiant who suits your personal style and the spirit of your day.
- Gather decor inspiration and start working on any DIY projects for the big day.
- Organize music for both your ceremony and reception— hire a DJ/musicians if desired.
- Make your final dress selection and order your wedding dresses!
- Research gift registries. Select your favorites and organize your wedding registry.
- Collect inspiration for your wedding day look— consider your accessories, hairstyle, etc.
- Gather wedding cake inspiration. Choose a design, schedule tastings, and book a baker.
- Send save-the-dates! 6 months ahead is appropriate, but earlier is best, if possible.
- Consider the rentals you'll need for your event. Get quotes and reserve your rental items.
- Select Flower Girl and Ring Bearer attire, and place orders, if necessary.
- Research honeymoon destinations, accommodations, and activities.
- Schedule pre-marital counseling sessions with your partner.



DETAILS, DETAILS:

4-6 MONTHS TO THE WEDDING DAY

- Make final honeymoon decisions and book your trip!
- Reserve your rehearsal dinner location, and your accommodations for your wedding night.
- Make final flower selections and coordinate with your florist. Place flower order if DIYing.
- Buy or DIY accessories and decor for the ceremony and reception.
- Visit a jeweler to try on and purchase your wedding bands.
- Reserve room blocks at local hotels for your guests and update your wedding website with that info.

ODDS AND ENDS:

3-4 MONTHS TO THE WEDDING DAY

- Research, choose and order (or DIY) your wedding invitations.
- Finalize ceremony details, readings and vows, and coordinate with your officiant.
- Select music for ceremony and reception playlists. Share with musicians or DJ.
- Research and buy (or DIY) wedding favors, guest gifts, welcome bags, etc.
- Finalize wedding day accessories, like veil, shoes, jewelry, undergarments, etc.
- Begin your wedding beauty prep regimen. Get serious about your skincare routine!
- Purchase or make bridal party gifts to give to bridesmaids and groomsmen.
- Arrange for wedding day transportation.

GETTING CLOSE:

2 MONTHS TO THE WEDDING DAY

- Address and send out wedding invitations.
- Create wedding paper goods (programs, signage, menus, place cards, etc.)
- Set aside time to write thank you notes for gifts you've received at showers or early wedding gifts that are arriving.
- Make day-of getting ready arrangements for the bridal party.
- Purchase or DIY your wedding guest book, card box, and other various wedding accessories.
- Schedule dress fittings and alterations.
- Begin drafting day-of timeline and schedule with your coordinator (if you have one.)
- Finalize music selections for key moments of ceremony and reception.



ALMOST TIME!

MONTH OF THE WEDDING

- Call guests who missed the RSVP deadline to determine final headcounts for vendors.
- Finalize wedding day timeline and share with all vendors and your wedding party.
- Finalize ceremony and reception seating plan and share with all appropriate vendors.
- Determine wedding day to-do's for helpers/bridal party, and distribute lists.
- Confirm final menu with caterer and make note of any special dietary needs of guests.
- Purchase gift for your partner and write a personal note to be read the day-of.
- Make sure you and your future spouse's wedding outfits fit you comfortably.
- Confirm with special loved ones who will be giving speeches or toasts.
- Visit the courthouse and register for your marriage license. (It's getting real!)
- If you're providing your own alcohol, purchase the wine/beer/liquor you need for the bar.
- Get all day-of stationery and paper goods printed. (Menus, programs, place cards, etc.)
- Create a shot list of items to be captured by your photographers on the big day.
- Confirm wedding ceremony music with musicians or arrange recordings to be used.
- Submit your wedding announcement to your local paper.

THE NITTY GRITTY:

2 WEEKS BEFORE THE WEDDING

- Confirm final payment totals with all vendors and prepare checks ahead of time.
- Organize all decor items, craft projects, etc for easy transport and setup on the day-of.
- Place cash tips for vendors in envelopes and designate someone to distribute payments the day of.
- Pack a wedding day emergency kit with items you might need like stain remover, aspirin, mints, etc.
- Confirm location, date, and time with all vendors.
- Have a date night with your future spouse – just enjoy being together and DON'T talk about the wedding!
- Confirm delivery locations, times, and final arrangement count with florist.
- Confirm beauty appointments!



SO CLOSE...

THE WEEK OF THE WEDDING

- Put together an overnight bag for the wedding night and designate someone to deliver it to the hotel for you.
- Break in your wedding day shoes! Practice walking and dancing in them.
- Get manicure/pedicure and any other beauty appointments.
- Pack your honeymoon bag and have it ready to go for after the big day!
- Designate someone to collect the wedding gifts (and any cash) brought to the event.
- Begin name change paperwork and submit your change-of-address form to the local post office.
- Leave a copy of your honeymoon itinerary with someone in case of emergency.
- Confirm with people who you expect to give/lead toasts at the reception.
- Get wedding dress steamed/pressed.
- Drop off welcome bags at hotel.

YAY!! WEDDING DAY!!

THE DAY OF THE WEDDING

- Be sure to be present in the moment.
- Give your new spouse a good “first kiss”!
- Relax, smile, and enjoy yourself!
- Shake your tailfeather on the dance floor!
- Take a moment to thank your parents and tell them you love them.
- Ride off into the sunset with your new spouse! You’re officially a Mrs!

MARRIED BLISS!

AFTER THE WEDDING

- You’re married! Enjoy your honeymoon!
- Make sure all vendor bills have been paid in full.
- Have your wedding dress cleaned or preserved for storage and/or resale!
- Send thank-you notes for gifts, as well as favors and help provided for your wedding.
- Confirm when you can expect to receive your wedding photos and/or video.
- Submit your wedding to be featured on The Budget Savvy Bride!