

The Ultimate Wedding Planning Timeline

by Mike Briggs Photography

12+ Months Before the Wedding

- Announce your engagement and celebrate!
- Insure your engagement ring
- Discussing priorities with your partner
- Set your budget
- Book your wedding venues
- Hire a wedding planner if desired
- Draft your guest list
- Choose your color palette, design and themes
- Buy wedding insurance

9-12+ Months Before the Wedding

- Hire your key vendors that book up quickly, starting with photographer, caterer, and entertainment
- Schedule and do your Engagement Session
- Buy your wedding dress and shop for your wedding attire
- Create your Wedding Website
- Send save-the-dates
- Buy bridesmaids dresses, accessories and schedule fittings

6-9 Months Before the Wedding

- Plan your decor and floral arrangements.
- Order rentals such as chairs, linens, and lighting
- Book your remaining vendors, including your officiant
- Book your honeymoon
- Buy or rent the groom's tux or suit
- Secure room blocks or accommodations for guests
- Register for gifts
- Choose your cake and deserts
- Buy wedding bands
- Hire ceremony musicians

4-5 Months Before the Wedding

- Order your wedding invitations and finalize the design
- Choose groomsmen attire and schedule fittings
- Have your final tasting with caterer and plan your menu
- Plan and book the rehearsal dinner and pre-wedding events
- Schedule hair and makeup trials
- Finalize your wedding day schedule template
- Have your hair and makeup trial
- Hire Transportation

2-3 Months Before the Wedding

- Send out wedding invitations
- Plan guest favors and gift bags
- Write your vows if you're personalizing them
- Meet with your officiant
- Select ceremony readings
- Start on your DIY items
- Send rehearsal dinner invitations
- Have your first wedding dress fitting
- Do floral mock-ups with your florist
- Send playlist and song selections to your DJ or band
- Buy all miscellaneous items

1 Month Before the Wedding

- Have your final dress fitting
- Confirm arrival times and expectations with all vendors
- Give final head count to your caterer
- Finalize the seating chart
- Buy wedding party gifts
- Pay all vendors in full
- Order or make escort cards
- Have a final venue walk through
- Break in your wedding shoes
- Create an emergency kit
- Plan for your honeymoon
- Pick up marriage license

Wedding Week

- Relax and enjoy!
- Have a manicure and pedicure
- Clean your ring
- Pack for your honeymoon
- Practice your vows out loud
- Pack a bag of small personal items
- Try on your dress one last time and practice how to bustle it
- Have your dress steamed
- Delegate tasks like guest coordination and vendor communication to trusted friends or family.
- Double-check your wedding planning tasks list to ensure nothing is overlooked.