

to-do timeline

Get organized (and stay calm!) with our comprehensive planning checklist

<p>engagement date</p> <hr/> <p>wedding date</p>	<h3>6-9 months before</h3>	
<h3>as soon as you're engaged</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Start a wedding binder with sections for each vendor. <input type="checkbox"/> Check out InStyleWeddings.com for ideas to help you begin. <input type="checkbox"/> Decide on a budget. <input type="checkbox"/> Establish the wedding basics: formal or informal? indoors or out? day or night? at home or out of town? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Finalize the guest list. <input type="checkbox"/> Order invitations. <input type="checkbox"/> Order and mail save-the-date cards, if desired. <input type="checkbox"/> Arrange group hotel rates for out-of-town guests. <input type="checkbox"/> Sign contracts with and pay deposits to florist, cake-maker and other key vendors. <input type="checkbox"/> Set dates for bridal showers and other parties. <input type="checkbox"/> Order your gown. <input type="checkbox"/> Choose wedding-day shoes and accessories. <input type="checkbox"/> Select attendants dresses. <input type="checkbox"/> Book big-day hair and makeup appointments. <input type="checkbox"/> Request time off from work for your honeymoon. <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve honeymoon flights and hotel rooms. 	
<h3>9-12 months before the wedding</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Set a date. <input type="checkbox"/> Check marriage license requirements, particularly for a destination wedding. <input type="checkbox"/> Book ceremony and reception locations; obtain necessary permits. <input type="checkbox"/> Research vendors or hire a wedding planner. <input type="checkbox"/> Choose an officiant; discuss the ceremony and any pre-marriage requirements. <input type="checkbox"/> Designate attendants. <input type="checkbox"/> Draft a guest list. <input type="checkbox"/> Create a wedding Web site, if desired. <input type="checkbox"/> Set up your gift registry. <input type="checkbox"/> Start shopping for your gown. <input type="checkbox"/> Announce your engagement in local papers, if desired. 	<h3>4-6 months before</h3>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your attorney to discuss changes to insurance policies, wills and bank accounts; draw up a prenuptial agreement, if desired. <input type="checkbox"/> Finalize all décor for your ceremony and reception. <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve rental items you may need, such as tables, chairs and tents. <input type="checkbox"/> Order and size wedding bands; arrange for rings to be engraved, if desired. <input type="checkbox"/> Decide on attire for the groom and groomsmen. <input type="checkbox"/> Order favors for guests. <input type="checkbox"/> Shop for attendants gifts. <input type="checkbox"/> Buy a guest book, if desired. <input type="checkbox"/> Mail thank-you notes as you receive gifts.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule a rehearsal with your officiant and notify appropriate people. <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve a site and choose menus for your rehearsal dinner and morning-after brunch, if desired. <input type="checkbox"/> Book your wedding-night hotel room. <input type="checkbox"/> Arrange day-of transportation for you, your groom, attendants and other key guests. <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare directions to the ceremony and reception. <input type="checkbox"/> Hire a calligrapher to address envelopes, if desired. <input type="checkbox"/> If planning a wedding or honeymoon abroad, secure passports and visas, as necessary. 	

InStyleWeddings planner

brought to you by  the magic of macy's
macysweddingchannel.com

to-do timeline (continued)



2 months before

- Mail invitations.
- Schedule a tasting with your caterer and finalize the menu.
- Choose ceremony music; create "must-play" and "don't-play" lists for the DJ or band.
- Make a shot list of people and events for your photographer and/or videographer.
- Have programs, menus and escort cards printed.
- Confirm that bridesmaids have their dresses, shoes and accessories, and check that all alterations have been made.
- Arrange for a dressing area for your bridal party.
- Schedule wedding-weekend activities for guests.
- Update your registry and add items, if needed.
- Send a wedding announcement to local papers, if desired.
- Pay honeymoon deposits.

6 months before

- Mail brunch and rehearsal-dinner invitations.
- Visit hairstylist and makeup artist to try out wedding-day looks.

1 month before

- Coordinate ceremony and reception responsibilities with attendants.
- Confirm wedding-day details with all vendors.
- Ask a friend or relative to distribute programs at the ceremony.
- Write your vows, if needed.
- Obtain a marriage license and designate a witness.
- Attend final dress fitting; bring all accessories to be sure the ensemble looks exactly as you'd like it to.

1 week before

- Provide your caterer with a final head count.
- Distribute to families and attendants a telephone contact list and directions to the ceremony and reception.
- Organize vendor payments and other fees in envelopes.
- Arrange for your dress to be picked up or delivered.
- Break in your shoes.
- Get a facial and confirm wedding-day beauty appointments.
- Pack for your honeymoon.



1 day before

- Deliver welcome baskets to guests, if desired.
- Ask a trusted friend to bring your marriage license to the ceremony.
- Give rings to the best man.
- Give gifts to attendants.
- Get a manicure.
- Arrange for marriage announcements to be mailed, if desired.



day of

- Eat breakfast.
- Arrange for your luggage to be delivered to your hotel, if needed.
- Have your hair and makeup done.
- Get dressed.
- Switch your engagement ring to your right hand.

after the wedding

- Mail thank-you notes.
- Return or exchange gifts, if necessary.
- Change your name on all legal documents, if desired.
- Have your gown dry-cleaned and preserved.
- Order wedding photos, and share them with family and friends.

InStyleWeddings planner

brought to you by  the magic of macy's
macysweddingchannel.com