**Countdown to ‘I Do’**

 Your go-to Wedding checklist guide

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

To Abba, whose wisdom surpasses all understanding and glory makes all things possible.

To All Future Newly-weds, may your wedding day be filled with joy, love, and cherished memories. I hope this checklist helps you navigate the planning process with ease and excitement. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your journey.

Cheers to celebrating love and creating beautiful moments!

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**INTRODUCTION**

Congratulations on saying "Yes!" Now it’s time to get everything ready for your happily ever after. Planning a wedding can seem like a huge task, but with the right tools — and this checklist, you’ll find it easier to manage and maybe even fun.

Whether your wedding is a grand celebration or a more intimate gathering, or perhaps you are months away from the aisle or just starting your planning, this checklist is designed to fit your needs.

This checklist is designed to guide you step-by-step through everything you’ll need for your big day, from booking venues to saying “I do.” Each chapter has planning processes divided into bite-sized actionable tasks to keep you organized and know exactly what needs to be done and when. You will also find helpful tips and reminders sprinkled throughout to make sure nothing important is missed. Plus, checking off each box is oh-so-satisfying!

Remember, wedding planning isn’t just about organizing — it’s about celebrating the love you and your partner share. So, feel free to customize the checklist to match your unique vision. Adjust it based on your priorities, schedule, and style. And, most importantly, don’t forget to have fun along the way while you watch your dream wedding unfold.

Now, let’s get started on making your wedding day as magical as you’ve always imagined.

**After Engagement**

1. Discuss your ideal wedding with your other half
2. Draw up a budget
3. Decide on the approximate number of guests
4. Pick potential wedding dates - check with important guests to avoid clashes
5. Subscribe to Marriage/Wedding Podcast
6. Have an engagement party

**PRO TIP:** Insure your engagement ring, I suggest purchasing insurance for that precious new bling on your fingers. You can ignore this if your fiancé already took care of it before proposing, or perhaps the stones do not cost a lot of fortune.

**12 Months Before The Wedding**

1. Determine your budget

2. Draft your guest list

3. Decide wedding formalities and overall wedding theme

4. Research, visit and inquire/book wedding ceremony and reception venue

5. Research and select potential wedding vendors

• Wedding Planner

• Photographer

• Videographer

• Band/D.J

• Wedding Host

• Groom & Bridal Atelier

• Florist

• Caterer

• Wedding Graphics Designer

• Baker

• Logistics (Car Rentals)

• Officiant

• Hair & Make-up artist

6. Consider and review wedding insurance options

7. Mail out ‘Save the Date’ cards – especially for destination weddings, or during a very busy time of year.

**9-11 Months Before The Wedding**

1. Select and send notice of selection for bridal duties to your groomsmen/bridesmaid

2. Book with part payment top wedding vendors with tight schedules

• Wedding Planner

• Photographer

• Videographer

• Band/D.J

• Wedding Decorator

3. Research and reserve hotel accommodations for couples, families & guests

4. Contact event hire companies if you need to rent anything for the ceremony/reception, such as chairs, tables, chillers, or a tent

5. Research honeymoon locations and book flights and accommodations

6. Book pastry/ food tasting sessions and finalize menu and drinks options

7. Book a pre-marriage course

8. Start bridal dress & accessory shopping – book an appointment with your preferred wedding atelier to make inquiries and discuss style, body type, budget, terms & conditions.

9. Book an appointment with the photographer to take Engagement Photos

10. Maintain or kickstart a fitness routine or dance lesson

11. Draft out and enlist any helpers/talented friends of family with aspects of the wedding

***PRO TIP:*** *Do your research and ask all the right questions before you hire your wedding vendors and make initial deposits. Check Pinterest to gather inspiration for your wedding dress & accessories. However, consult your wedding stylist on what style they’d recommend for your body type.*

**6 - 8 Months Before The Wedding**

1. Order your wedding dress & accessories

2. Finalize selection of groomsmen/bridesmaids' outfits

3. Hire a religious officiant for your wedding

4. Place booking for your wedding host

5. Scrutinize travel passports - book new ones if necessary

6. Create your honeymoon vision plan – surprises, activities, and excursions

7. Select and order wedding invitations and stationery from wedding graphic designer

8. Decide and create your wedding gift list alongside your partner and attach it to your wedding website (share with family, friends, and wedding guests).

9. Delegate the best man/bridesmaids to organize a hen and stag party.

10. Gather guest list addresses and create a spreadsheet for RSVPs invitation card delivery

11. Schedule and attend pre-marriage counseling

12. Design your wedding website

**PRO TIP:** *Ensure bridesmaids' outfits are in line with the officiant rules. When drafting your gift register, it's smart to tailor the register to your soon-to-be-married lifestyle needs. Remember to attach your gift register to your wedding website and share link with guests, family & friends.*

**4 - 5 Months Before The Wedding**

1. Meet with your florist to discuss options

2. Shop and place an order for the groom's suit

3. Rent or Book for personalized bridesmaid dresses/men’s suits

4. Select prayers, readings and music for ceremony booklets — check with your priest/officiant

5. Arrange travel vaccinations if necessary

6. Organise and place booking for all wedding transport/logistics

7. Organise a makeup & hair trial and book stylist

8. Send wedding invitations to guests

9. Choose and order wedding rings

10. Confirm and Place an order for any rental needs for the wedding

11. Purchase/follow-up order delivery of personalized bridal/groom accessories

12. Select and Organise outfits for flower girls or page boys

13. Plan the wedding day timeline and order of ceremony with the officiant/wedding host

14. Order Wedding Cake, pastries and drinks

**PRO TIP:** Ensure to Meet with your officiant to finalize the order of the ceremony and discuss readings. Remember to schedule vows rehearsal with your partner, groomsmen/bridesmaid, and officiant to prepare you two for the big day. Moreso, your flower girls or page boys where necessary.

**2-3 Months Before The Wedding**

1 Schedule your first Bridal Dress fitting

2. Start following up on RSVPs and confirm with your venue.

3. Organise & Purchase favors and gifts for couple, parents, bridesmaids, groomsmen and wedding guests.

4. Finalize Seating Arrangements at the ceremony and reception.

5. Curate & finalize music playlists alongside your DJ/band for the reception, first dance, etc.

6. Draft Your wedding Vows.

7. Obtain Marriage License

8. Schedule and engage in an intercessory private prayer session/fast with your partner, officiant, family members/close pal against your wedding & marriage

**PRO TIP:** When trying to obtain your marriage license, do proper research on your country/state’s requirements and documentation process and apply for your marriage license.Start following up on RSVPs and confirm with your venue and event planner should there be an increase in number of guests or special guest requests.

**1 month Before The Wedding**

1. Schedule an appointment for your final dress fitting to ensure everything is perfect.

2. Touch base with vendors to confirm logistics, timing, and any final details.

3. Create and pack up a Wedding Day Emergency Kit

4. Wear and freestyle your wedding shoes around the house to avoid blisters on the big day.

5. Schedule a vendors meeting and Review the wedding Timeline with your wedding party vendors.

6. Assemble wedding Gift Bags

7. Pay Vendors in Full or second installments (for three-part installment agreements)

8. Outline your wedding Seating Chart

9. Review the final RSVP list and call any guests who have not yet responded

10. Have a Final Venue Walk-Through

11. Follow up on any last-minute adjustments with suppliers/vendors

12. Finalize details for, and order mass booklets/order of ceremony

13. Complete any wedding DIY or craft projects

14. Order or Make Escort Cards / Place Cards for with final guest list

**PRO TIP:** When drafting your wedding seating chart remember to balance out individual relationships, egos, potential, and crisis management. Moreso, think about your venue’s floor plan, whether or not you’ll have a head table and who will be sitting at it, and choosing a cool design. Additionally, ensure to make/delegate final supervision of the place cards placement.

**2 Weeks Before The Wedding**

1. Confirm and communicate the final guest count to your caterer, planner, and venue.

2. Organize and assign final vendor payments and tips.

3. Prepare Your Wedding Vows and Schedule wedding vows practice with partner

4. Start packing and confirming all travel arrangements for Your Honeymoon.

5. Create and communicate delegation of wedding day tasks to trusted friends or family.

6. Draft and Deliver a must-have photo shot list to photographer and videographer

7. Create your table plan and outline your gift distribution plan

8. Clear your work to-do list so you can only focus on wedding festivities and take it all in

**PRO TIP:** Avoid a vendor chasing money by keeping careful track of when and how much you pay each vendor. If some vendors must be paid the day of, or you’re distributing tips, give your most trusted bestie, planner, or relative a heads-up about that and count on them to handle the labeled envelopes you’ve put together. Remember to communicate with the photographer/videographer about must-have shots/reels and who should be in portraits and determine when portraits should be taken.

**1 Week Before The Wedding**

1. Schedule your wedding dinner Rehearsal

2. Schedule a 3-day pre-wedding beauty & body couple spa session (mani-pedi, massage, waxing, and all your preening and prep)

3. Get your engagement ring professionally cleaned so it’s extra sparkly on the wedding day

4. Write your partner a lovely wedding note

5. Discuss last-minute substitutions with affected wedding vendors

6. Do a full wedding dress/suit rehearsal from underwear to veil

**PRO TIP:** Make a list of questions beforehand, and take your planner or another close friend or family member to bring up anything you forget. Strut down your hallway in your wedding shoes. Do everything in your power to avoid painful blisters on the wedding night. Go through the ceremony details and enjoy a celebratory rehearsal dinner with loved one Relax and Recharge: Take time to relax, meditate, or enjoy a day. Stay hydrated and get plenty of rest.

**2-3 days Before The Wedding**

1. Make last-minute changes to the table plan if necessary

2. Practice your vows out loud

3. Provide wedding vendors with an emergency contact to call on D-day.

4. Confirm pick-up time with the wedding car company (if renting)

5. Draft & share the D-day's running order with your planner and MC

6. Pack an emergency feminine kit and overnight bag for the reception

**PRO TIP:** Congratulations! You've made it all-the-way to the final week of wedding planning. Deep breaths now, most of the hard work is over at this point. Now all that is really left is the nitty-gritty details - run through your checklist again with a close pal/family members to be sure nothing is left out.

**A day Before The Wedding**

**The Morning of:**

1. Stay off your feet as much as possible

2. Eat breakfast & stay hydrated all through the day

3. Take your dress and veil out of the bag early on and have someone steam them if needed

4. Lay out all the items (rings, invitations, etc.) that you want the photographer to capture

5. Exchange wedding notes with your partner

6. Give gratitude to everyone around you

**The Night Before:**

1. Eat a healthy meal

2. Pack a clutch or small bag of personal items

3. Get a good night's sleep

4. Put packed boxes and kits to bring to the ceremony in the car

5. Delegate someone to track delivery of wedding cake and hall decor

6. Bring group intercessory prayer to a close into the morning of D-day

**PRO TIP:** The big day is finally here. All that careful preparation and creative planning have come to fruition, and it’s time to enjoy the wedding. Say a prayer and final reflection and meditation against your big day.

**On your wedding day,**

1. Assign a trusted person to manage calls and any on-the-spot decisions

2. Eat Breakfast and Remain Hydrated

3. Keep Important Documents Handy i.e marriage license

4. Assign someone to collect and distribute wedding gifts and cash prizes.

5. Designate Someone for instant mobile photos/videos for the day

6. Plan a lone moment during the day for you and your partner.

7. Stay Present and Enjoy the Moment

8. Prepare and assign someone to coordinate your Grand Exit i.e logistics and cue the guests when it’s time.

9. Keep a smiling face all-day

**PRO TIP:** *If you don’t have a wedding planner, assign a trusted friend, family member, or professional to manage last-minute details, vendor arrivals, and any on-the-spot decisions. Especially, double-check and remind caterer of all dietary restrictions/preferences. Confirm that your bridesmaids, groomsmen, or ushers remember their roles. Additionally, prepare for sudden weather changes i.e have umbrellas, a tent, or alternate plans.*

**After your wedding day,**

1. Send thank-you notes to all guests, vendors family & friends

2. Remind wedding planner/coordinator to return any rented items

3. Take your wedding dress to a professional for cleaning and preservation.

4. Confirm all outstanding vendors' payments are completed

5. Start the legal process of changing your name.

6. Update your financial accounts and any other official documents.

7. Take a break, unwind, and enjoy Your Honeymoon

8 Select favorite wedding photos & videos and order a wedding album

9. Return or Exchange Unwanted Gifts

10. Host a Post-Wedding Brunch (Optional)

11. Store or Donate Leftover Wedding Décor

12. File Your Marriage Certificate with the appropriate government office.

13. Update your Social Media accounts

14. Take adequate rest before getting back into your normal routine.

**PRO TIP:** If needed, update your will or beneficiaries, and consider setting up joint bank accounts if you and your spouse choose to do so. Also, If anyone played an extra-special role in your wedding (like a friend who went above and beyond), consider sending a small thank-you gift to show your appreciation.

### **Closing Remarks**

Dear Bride/Groom, as you approach your big day, remember that wedding planning is about more than just the details—it’s about celebrating your love and commitment. We hope this checklist has guided you smoothly through the process and helped you stay organized along the way.

While there may be challenges, trust in the journey, enjoy every moment, and know that the best part is yet to come: a lifetime of happiness together.

Congratulations on this beautiful milestone, and best wishes for a wedding day filled with joy, love, and unforgettable memories.

**REFERENCE**

1. <https://www.brides.com/story/brides-wedding-checklist-custom-wedding-to-do-list>
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