



10–12 Months To Go...

- Get both families together to announce the engagement and establish who is able to contribute to your wedding costs, and who will pay for what.
- Set your budget and decide on your priorities. Know where to save/where to splurge.
- Start browsing bridal blogs and magazines to get a feel for your wedding style and to choose color palette. Some couples choose a themed wedding, so this is the time to plan out exactly what you want for your big day!
- Compile your guest list – many vendors are going to need those numbers for accurate quotes.
- Choose your wedding party, and ask each person personally to be a part of it. Some brides and grooms opt to take their potential party members to lunch, dinner, or a fun activity, while others send a personalized card by mail. Just remember that you are assembling your wedding warriors, so try to make it fun and special for them!
- Look at and decide on a venue for your ceremony and reception, and reserve your date as soon as possible. Many popular venues book up for a year or two at a time.
- Create your Save-The-Date announcements. For destination weddings or weddings around a holiday, consider sending out Save-the-Date cards or emails to allow for guest planning. You can also create your own wedding website, and let your invitees know about it.
- Gather your bridesmaids and find a dress and accessories. Most wedding magazines include sections of bridal stores in your local area, as well as listings of bridal fairs and trunk shows.
- Start meeting with and choosing vendors. We recommend beginning with your caterers and bakers, as tastings are regularly scheduled and it could take 2-3 visits to find your preferred provider. You should also begin looking at photographers, videographers, and your officiant at this time.
- If this seems like a lot, it is! If you think you need the help of a Wedding Planner, this is the time to find them and bring them on board!
- When you need a break from the serious planning, take a time out and start thinking about your honeymoon.

6–9 Months To Go...

- Continue meeting with and hiring your vendors – get all agreements in writing before you put down a deposit!
- Decide on arrangements with your Floral Designer.
- Do a tasting and choose your wedding cake with your Cake Designer.
- Hire your DJ or entertainer for your ceremony, cocktail hour and reception. Get a feel for their style, and make sure it matches with your wedding vision. Create lists of songs or musical styles you definitely want included, and a black-list of music you

definitely don't want during your event.

- Meet with a stationer or create your own invitations online.
- Create your gift registry.
- Arrange hotel room blocks for out-of-town guests and book your own suite for the wedding night.
- Shop for bridesmaid/flower girl dresses and give your attendants clear instructions on how to place their orders.
- Arrange and book any necessary transportation.
- Go over bridal shower/bachelorette details and the guest list with your Maid of Honor/hostess.

3–5 Months To Go...

- Book the rehearsal site and the rehearsal dinner location, along with any included entertainment or special details you'd like included in those events.
- Arrange for any rentals (tables, chairs, linens, silverware, etc).
- Choose and order your wedding favors.
- Shop for and reserve men's formalwear.
- Finalize the: guest list, invitation text, programs, menu cards, place cards, thank-you cards, and pickup dates for your printed goods, ceremony readings and vows, catering details, and timeline of the day.
- Contact Belle of the Ball for your hair and makeup trial to perfect your wedding day style!
- Book any facial packages to get your skin in picture perfect condition (getting your first facial too close to the big day could result in a breakout, or not leave enough time for best results).
- Purchase your wedding rings.
- Finalize honeymoon plans and obtain all necessary documents – make sure passports are current, and find out what visas and inoculations may be required for visiting your destination.

6–8 Weeks To Go...

- Mail out those invitations! Have a game plan for recording the RSVPs and meal choices.
- Confirm date, deposits and details with all vendors.
- Look up marriage license requirements. In the state of California, marriage licenses may be obtained up to 90 days before the ceremony. Do not apply for one too soon, or you will have to start the process over.
- Begin your dress fittings and purchase appropriate undergarments.
- Touch base with the wedding party and make sure they've ordered all necessary attire.
- Write thank-you cards for shower gifts and any early wedding gifts received.

3–5 Weeks To Go...

- Send out rehearsal dinner invitations.
- Finalize and confirm:
 - Wedding vows and readings with your Officiant.
 - Shot list with your Photographer/Videographer.
 - Song list for ceremony, cocktail hour and reception with your DJ and/or

- Band/Musicians.
- Timeline for the reception and who's giving the toasts.
- Wedding night and honeymoon accommodations.
- Obtain marriage license and complete name-change documents, if applicable.
- Pick up your wedding rings from the jeweler.
- Purchase your guest book, toasting flutes, cake servers, unity candle, and anything else you need for your ceremony and reception.
- Have your final dress fitting – this time, wear your shoes and accessories to get the full effect.
- Check in with anyone who has not RSVP'd.

1–2 Weeks To Go...

- Give your vendors the final guest count.
- Complete the seating chart and/or place cards.
- Pick up your gown.
- Confirm arrival times and finalize the wedding timeline with vendors and the wedding party—make sure your MOH has a copy, too.
- Check the weather report, and if things look iffy contact your venue to make sure a contingency plan is in place.
- Start packing for your honeymoon - check local weather to make sure you have everything you have the appropriate clothing for comfort.
- Get the last facial before the ceremony, and if you need a massage, do it now! Massage releases toxins in the body, so you will need more than a day or two of recovery time before the wedding.

The Day Before...

- Make sure all wedding-day items are as ready as you are. Double check that your rings and marriage license are with those important items.
- Write out final payments for vendors (include gratuities!). Put them in clearly marked envelopes and give them to the Best Man or another person you trust to hand out at the reception.
- Confirm someone to pack up your gifts/belongings after the reception (don't forget the top tier of your cake!).
- Confirm that someone will be returning tuxes and all rented items the day after the wedding, and thank them for taking care of it for you!
- Get a manicure and pedicure – many brides are opting for gel manicures to keep nails chip free and glossy.
- Attend the rehearsal and dinner, and give out wedding party gifts.

The Big Day is Here!

- Allow plenty of time to get ready – a rushed bride is not a relaxed bride.
- Do the rounds at your wedding—greet everyone and thank them for coming.
- Share a private moment with your new spouse and appreciate your special day together.

