

12-Month Wedding Planning Checklist

Free from Merriwell · Tick as you go

Do these first

- ☐ Tour ceremony and reception venues
- ☐ Book your venue and sign the contract
 - ☐ Make a shortlist
 - ☐ Visit or call your favorites
 - ☐ Read and sign the contract
 - ☐ Pay the deposit
- ☐ Book your officiant
 - ☐ Decide who you would like
 - ☐ Meet or call them
 - ☐ Confirm the date in writing
- ☐ Book your photographer
 - ☐ Make a shortlist of three
 - ☐ Meet or call them
 - ☐ Read and sign the contract
 - ☐ Pay the deposit
- ☐ Talk through your budget and who is contributing
- ☐ Write a first guest list

12 to 9 months before

- ☐ Book your caterer
 - ☐ Make a shortlist
 - ☐ Get quotes for your numbers
 - ☐ Read and sign the contract
 - ☐ Pay the deposit
- ☐ Book your DJ or band
 - ☐ Make a shortlist
 - ☐ Listen to them play
 - ☐ Read and sign the contract
 - ☐ Pay the deposit
- ☐ Ask your wedding party
- ☐ Start looking at wedding dresses
- ☐ Book your videographer
 - ☐ Make a shortlist
 - ☐ Meet or call them
 - ☐ Read and sign the contract
 - ☐ Pay the deposit
- ☐ Reserve a hotel room block for out-of-town guests

9 to 6 months before

- ☐ Book your engagement photos
- ☐ Choose and order your wedding dress
 - ☐ Try on a few styles
 - ☐ Place the order
 - ☐ Book your fittings
- ☐ Book your florist
 - ☐ Make a shortlist
 - ☐ Share a few photos you like
 - ☐ Read and sign the contract
 - ☐ Pay the deposit
- ☐ Set up your wedding website
- ☐ Create your registry
- ☐ Choose what your wedding party will wear
- ☐ Send your save-the-dates
- ☐ Book hair and makeup
 - ☐ Make a shortlist
 - ☐ Count who needs hair or makeup
 - ☐ Book and pay the deposit
- ☐ Plan and book your honeymoon
 - ☐ Choose where
 - ☐ Book travel and somewhere to stay
 - ☐ Check passports and visas
- ☐ Check your passports

6 to 3 months before

- ☐ Check the marriage license rules where you marry

The license comes from the state where you marry. Each state sets its own waiting period and how long the license lasts, and counties can differ. Check with the county clerk.
- ☐ Choose suits or tuxedos
- ☐ Book your cake or dessert baker
- ☐ Book transportation
- ☐ Choose your wedding rings
 - ☐ Get your ring sizes
 - ☐ Choose and order
 - ☐ Engraving, if you want it
- ☐ Look at wedding insurance

- ☐ Plan your ceremony
 - ☐ Choose any readings
 - ☐ Choose the music
 - ☐ Agree the order with your officiant
- ☐ Plan the rehearsal dinner
- ☐ Order your invitations
 - ☐ Choose a design
 - ☐ Check names, wording and dates
 - ☐ Order a proof, then print
- ☐ Talk about bachelor or bachelorette parties
- ☐ Talk about a wedding shower, if you are having one
- ☐ Do a menu tasting

3 months to 1 month before

- ☐ Order your veil and accessories
- ☐ First dress fitting
- ☐ Do a hair and makeup trial
- ☐ Look at wills, insurance and beneficiaries
- ☐ Draft your day timeline
- ☐ Send your invitations
 - ☐ Collect everyone's address
 - ☐ Buy postage
 - ☐ Mail them
- ☐ Send your photographer a family photo list
- ☐ Write your vows

The last month

- ☐ Add your rings to your insurance
- ☐ Apply for your marriage license

The license comes from the state where you marry, not where you live. Check its waiting period and how long it lasts with your county clerk before you go. Usually you both go in person with ID.

 - ☐ Gather your ID and documents
 - ☐ Check whether you need an appointment
 - ☐ Bring the fee
- ☐ RSVP deadline
- ☐ Share your timeline with your vendors and wedding party
- ☐ Put together welcome bags for out-of-town guests

- ☐ Pack the emergency kit
- ☐ Final dress fitting
- ☐ Give your caterer and venue the final guest count
- ☐ Make your seating chart
 - ☐ Get the table layout from your venue
 - ☐ Place everyone
 - ☐ Print it for the day
- ☐ Confirm each vendor's arrival time
- ☐ Pay final balances
- ☐ Send the final timeline to your vendors

The week of the wedding

- ☐ Put tips in labeled envelopes
- ☐ Pick up your outfits and rings
- ☐ Pack for your honeymoon
- ☐ Choose a point person for the day
- ☐ Check the things nobody can replace
- ☐ Hold the rehearsal
- ☐ Rehearsal dinner
- ☐ Give your marriage license to your officiant

Check whether your state needs witnesses.

The day

- ☐ Sign your marriage license

With your officiant, and your witnesses if your state requires them.
- ☐ Tip your vendors

After the wedding

- ☐ Return rented items
- ☐ Have your outfits cleaned and flowers preserved, if you like
- ☐ Check your signed license has been filed

Your officiant usually returns it to the county. Ask how long until your certificate is ready.
- ☐ Order certified copies of your marriage certificate
- ☐ Start your thank-you notes

- ☐ Change your name, if you are taking a new one
- ☐ Leave reviews for your vendors
- ☐ Share your photos with family
- ☐ Update insurance and beneficiaries
- ☐ Finish your thank-you notes
- ☐ Plan something for your first anniversary