

Before the "I Do's"

12 Month Countdown Checklist

12+ MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- Celebrate with your loved ones—you're engaged!
- Choose a wedding date (or have a couple of options, depending on your venue availability)
- Talk about the budget and decide who's contributing.
- Be inspired! Follow us on Instagram for local inspiration.
- Start pinning! Find endless wedding inspiration on Pinterest. Share your with board any close friends and family who you want on your planning team.
- Choose the style/theme/color palette of the wedding.
- Pick (and ask!) your wedding party.
- Schedule engagement photos.
- Start compiling the guest list.
- Research venues for the ceremony and reception.
- Research vendors - Wedding Planners, Caterers, musicians, photographers, videographers, etc.
- Research wedding dress styles and plan a shopping trip!

10-12 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- Create a wedding website
 - Wedding Wire and Zola are options.
- Book your wedding venues—both ceremony and reception, if they're at different locations.
- Book officiant.
- Research wedding invitation designs.
- Book desired vendors.
- Research wedding florists.
- Purchase wedding dress and veil.

8-10 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- Finalize the wedding guest list.
- Mail save-the-dates.
- Research hotels near your venue and reserve a block of rooms for out-of-town guests.
- Choose bridesmaid attire and accessories.
- Register for gifts. Usually, your wedding website will offer a place to create a wedding registry as well!
- Book a florist.

6-8 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- Decide on a wedding cake style and flavor (Tastings time!)
- Research wedding favors
- Research hair and makeup styles for your wedding day and book your stylist. (Consider booking a trial run as well if you are wanting an intricate hair-do.)
- Meet with your officiant and start planning the ceremony.
- Start planning your honeymoon!
- Choose groom and groomsmen attire.
- Book day-of transportation for the wedding party.
- Purchase wedding bands.
- Book rehearsal dinner venue.

4-6 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- Order your wedding invitations.
- Order a wedding cake—or cakes! We love the traditional cake alongside a funky groom's cake.
- Book lodging for your wedding night.
- Book honeymoon travel and lodging.
- Finalize bouquets and floral arrangements with your florist.
- Plan wedding welcome bags for out-of-town guests with unique local items they'll enjoy.
- Schedule dress fittings with your seamstress, most gowns need alterations.
- Put together a playlist (including a do-not-play list!) for your DJ or band.
- Order personalized wedding favors!

3 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- Finalize the timeline for your ceremony and reception.
- Purchase wedding décor and accessories. (Such as table numbers, place cards, the ring bearer pillow, flower basket, etc.)
- Order gifts for the bridal party, parents and each other.
- Finalize the reception menu with your caterer.
- Order menu cards.
- Order rehearsal dinner invitations.

2 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- Mail invitations.
- Develop a system for organizing RSVPs.
- Begin writing your vows.
- Review ceremony details with the officiant.
- Decide on content for wedding programs.
- Apply for a marriage license.
- Finalize day-of timeline.
- Finalize seating arrangements.
- Finalize playlists with musicians
- Finalize fittings and attire for the wedding party and your parents.
- Create a day-of schedule the distribute to vendors.
- Decide how to integrate "Something Old, New, Borrowed and Blue."
- Book beauty treatment for the bridal party.
- Order personalized cocktail napkins, cups and stir sticks.

1 MONTH BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- Final dress fitting.
- Pick up your wedding bands
- Confirm honeymoon reservations and pack for paradise!
- Check in with vendors to confirm the date, times and location. Provide them with the day-of vendor schedule.
- Pick up your marriage license.
- Order thank you notes.
- Delegate wedding day set-up and clean-up duties. (Gift table, guestbook, tux returns, any other rental return, etc.)
- Start breaking in your wedding shoes!

1-2 WEEKS BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- Follow up with any guests who haven't RSVP'd.
- Give the final headcount to your caterer.
- Make arrangements for and needed pet care during your wedding day and honeymoon.
- Make sure the band or DJ has your playlists.
- Get a final haircut and color.
- Have final payments and cash tips ready for all vendors.
- Provide any readers with the necessary scripts.
- Deliver a must-have image list to your photographer and videographer.


THE DAY BEFORE YOUR WEDDING

- Make sure everything is laid out and packed for the big day. (Your gown, shoes, the rings and marriage license.)
- Deliver wedding welcome bags to the hotel.
- Get a mani/pedi.
- Attend the wedding rehearsal.
- Enjoy your rehearsal dinner!
- Get your beauty sleep—don't stay up too late!

ON YOUR WEDDING DAY

- Eat a healthy, hearty breakfast.
- Give the Best Man your wedding rings and officiant fee.
- Take a deep breath! Relax and enjoy the day you've spent so much time planning.

AFTER THE WEDDING

- Enjoy your honeymoon!
- Send thank you notes to guests and particularly helpful vendors.
- Live happily ever after and enjoy your marriage! 

XOXO —San Diego Style Weddings