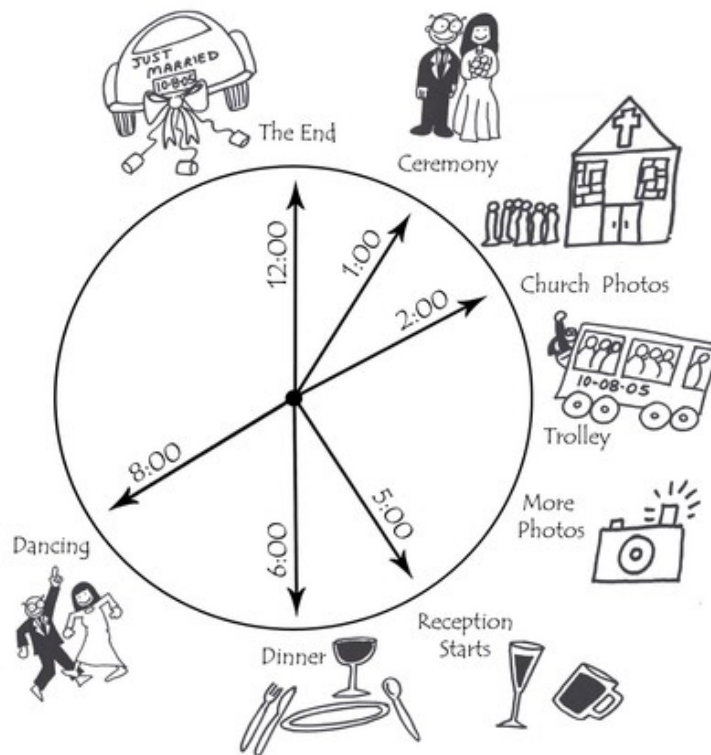


# Wedding Timeline Guidelines



## Wedding Timeline

The following is a timetable for wedding planning. It may be helpful not only as a guideline for when things need to be done, but also to help you think of all the things you might need to do. Please be aware that this is not intended as a list of "what you must do"; instead, read each item as "if you choose to do this thing, this is a rough idea of when you should do it."

Obviously, what needs to be done when varies depending on where you live (some things will require more lead time in a big city, and less in a small town) as well as your personal priorities. This list assumes that you can figure out that once you start planning something, you may need to take further steps as you go along. For example, at some point after you order a wedding dress, the shop will receive it and you will need to go in for fittings. It is assumed that you and the shop will discuss this and figure out when to do it. Similarly, after arranging for a DJ for the reception, at some point you will need to provide a list of the music you would like to hear. It is assumed that you and the DJ can decide when to do this.

### Nine to Eighteen Months Before

ACTIVITIES	COMPLETED
Have Engagement photo taken.	
Submit engagement announcement with photo to paper.	
Set a wedding budget.	
Develop a payment tracking system.	
Set wedding date.	
Determine ceremony and reception style.	
Determine number of guests to be invited to ceremony and reception.	
Begin development of guest list with your respective families.	
Since there will always be some form of guest limitations at some point, have every guest on the list marked in the following manner: 1. Guests who MUST be invited. 2. Guests who SHOULD be invited. 3. Guests that WOULD BE nice to invite.	
Select the wedding party (don't forget the flower girl and ring bearer).	
Investigate and book a ceremony sight.	
Investigate and select a reception sight.	
Interview caterers. Request information packages. These packages should include menus, price lists, any services available. Inquire about package arrangements.	
Select the color scheme of the wedding.	
Select the color and style of the wedding party attire.	
Check passport (Visa) and birth certificate. Order new ones if necessary for honeymoon and marriage license	

### Six To Nine Months Before

ACTIVITIES	COMPLETED
Choose caterer and finalize reception arrangements. NOTE: It is imperative to check any cancellation clauses before you commit to anything.	
Meet with officiating authority to discuss ceremony arrangements (don't forget to review wedding vows, music and any special requests).	
Select rental shop for groom and groomsman attire.	
Order bridesmaid's dresses, shoes and accessories (don't forget the flower girl).	
Schedule fitting and delivery dates for all wedding attire.	

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
Purchase shoes and accessories for wedding attire (don't forget to break in shoes).	
Interview and book florists.	
Choose style and type of floral arraignment.	
Register for china, crystal, silver patterns and other household accessories.	
Reserve bridal suite for wedding night.	
Plan your honeymoon.	
Interview and select DJ or band for reception.	
Interview and select ceremony musicians.	
Interview and select photographer.	
Interview and select videographer.	

### Three to Six Months Before

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
Finalize guest list.	
Order Stationary, invitations announcements, thank you notes, wedding programs, seating cards and any other printed items.	
Hire calligrapher and have invitations address (or address yourself).	
Order wedding rings and any special engravings	
Alert both mothers regarding color scheme and style of bridesmaids apparel.	
Finalize ceremony arrangements with officiating authority.	
Finalize catering arraignment.	
Interview bakeries for wedding cake.	
Reserve any of required rental items for reception and/ or ceremony.	
Schedule rehearsal dinner.	
Book all miscellaneous services (valet parking, etc.).	
Purchase wedding gifts for each other.	
Select gifts for the bridal party.	
If your wedding is at home, make a list of any repairs, etc. which may need to be completed and schedule to have them done.	

### Two Months Before

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
Mail invitations for wedding.	
Order wedding cake.	
Order party favors, room decorations.	
Purchase anything which you may need for honeymoon (clothes, etc.).	
Hire Limousine service and/ or arrange transportation for bride, groom and wedding party as well as select family members to and from reception.	
Complete all final fittings.	
Choose master of ceremonies.	
Choose music for ceremony.	
Choose music for reception.	
Finalize menu plans.	
Confirm all arrangements (cost, delivery, etc.) with the following: Caterer bakery photographer videographer wedding apparel shops/ seamstress honeymoon florist music officiating authority rentals printer for stationary, announcements cards, etc.	
Keep a detailed list of all guests who RSVP. You may wish to also record gifts received and write thank you notes as they arrive.	

ACTIVITIES	COMPLETED
Open new bank accounts.	
Get marriage license.	
Make medical and dental appointments. Don't forget the blood test and health certificate.	
Have formal wedding photo taken.	
Send wedding photo and announcement to newspaper.	
Select guest book attendant.	
Choose where and when guests should sign in.	
Mail rehearsal dinner invitations and notify wedding party of rehearsal dinner.	
Plan a bridesmaid lunch or dinner.	

### One Month Before

ACTIVITIES	COMPLETED
Finalize honeymoon arrangements.	
Make sure you have all honeymoon clothing and accessories and that it is ready to be packed (dry cleaned if necessary).	
Check your luggage to make sure it is good.	
Arrange to display wedding gifts.	
Take out a floater insurance policy for all your wedding gifts.	
Address wedding announcement for those not invited to the wedding.	
Arrange for location for wedding party to dress.	
Arrange seating for bridal and parents table- make place cards.	
Purchase any special decorative items needed (i.e. candles, doilies, etc.).	
Write a detailed schedule of the wedding day events for your wedding party and service providers.	
If you have a receiving line, decide when and where the line will be formed.	
Follow up with any guests who have not RSVP'ed.	
Pick up rings. Make sure they fit.	
Meet with photographer to discuss any special photos which need to be taken.	
Meet with videographer to instruct regarding any events or people that should be videotaped.	
Meet with DJ or band to arrangements for both the ceremony and reception.	
Determine ceremony seating.	
Discuss ceremony seating with ushers.	
Arrange reception seating- write out reception place cards.	

### One to Two Weeks Before

ACTIVITIES	COMPLETED
Confirm final honeymoon arrangements.	
Pack for your honeymoon.	
Finalize all wedding arrangements and services.	
Confirm all transportation arrangements.	
Confirm lodging arrangements for bridal party.	
Confirm bridal suite.	
Confirm flower order with florist.	
Confirm with caterer final number of guests.	
Pick up and wrap any gifts for bridal party, etc.	
Have wedding rehearsal and dinner.	

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
Have special lunch\ dinner for wedding party.	
Make list of wedding ensemble.	
Arrange refreshments for bridal party while they are getting dressed.	
Pick up wedding apparel and make sure it fits.	
Arrange transportation for "getaway car" after ceremony and reception.	
Review days events with service providers and bridal groups.	
Arrange for post office to forward mail while you are on your honeymoon.	

### Rehearsal Day

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
Put suitcases in car.	
Give best man checks for officiating authority.	
Choose someone to be responsible to bring accessories to ceremony, including ring pillow, flower basket, guest book and pen, toasting glasses, cake cutting knife, etc.	
Choose someone to return all rental items (cake pillars, tuxedos, etc.).	
Review ceremony setting with ushers and wedding party.	
Review schedule of events with wedding party.	

### Wedding Day

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
Give the grooms ring to the best maid.	
Give the brides ring to the best man.	
Make sure wedding announcements are mailed.	

### Morning

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
Arrange for any pick ups for items which will not be delivered.	
Eat breakfast.	

### Two Hours Before

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
Have wedding party arrive at house or meet you at hotel to dress and help with last minute details.	

### One Hour Before

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
Apply make up	
Dress	
Ushers should arrive 45 minutes before ceremony begins.	

### 1/2 Hour Before

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
Groom and best man arrive at ceremony.	
Introductory music begins.	
Bride/ bridesmaids meet at ceremony sight- wait in private room (if a traditional wedding, bride arrives with father ten minutes before ceremony begins).	
Best man confirms last minute arrangements with officiating authority and present him	

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
with his fee.	
Officiating authority provides any last minute instructions to groom and ushers.	
Marriage license should be present.	

### 15 Minutes Before

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
Family members and special guests are escorted to marked pews at the front.	

### 5 Minutes Before

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
Grooms mother and father are escorted to seats (Mother first, Father second).	
Brides Mother is the last person to be escorted to seat.	
White carpet/ aisle runner is rolled down aisle.	
Brides father takes his place with the bride.	
Bridal party is escorted in proper order.	

### Ceremony

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
Officiating authority takes his place up front.	
Groom enters accompanied by best man.	
Processional music begins.	

**And Don't Forget! Have Fun!!!!!!!!!!**