

BRIDE BESTIE

# The 12-Month Wedding Planning *Checklist*

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Your month-by-month guide to planning the whole day —  
without losing your mind.

START HERE

# Hey, bride-to-be 🙌

First — congratulations! You're engaged, and somewhere between the happy tears and the "wait, where do I even start?" panic, you found this. Take a breath. You've got a whole year (or however long you've got), and you do not have to figure it all out today.

I built this checklist to break the entire wedding down into small, doable steps, spread across the months ahead — so instead of one terrifying to-do list, you just handle a little at a time. Work top to bottom, tick things off as you go, and let the rest wait its turn.

## How to use this checklist

- ◆ The timeframes are **guidelines, not rules** — planning in 6 months? Just start at the top and move faster.
- ◆ Tick the box once something's **booked or done**, not just researched.
- ◆ Print it and stick it on the fridge, or keep the PDF on your phone — whatever keeps you looking at it.
- ◆ Money and guest count come first on purpose: **almost every other decision depends on them.**

*You've got this — I'm right here with you. xo, your Bride Bestie*

# The first few months

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## 12+ months out JUST ENGAGED

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- Celebrate & share the news with your people
- Decide on a rough date or season
- Choose your wedding party
- Settle on a vibe: formal, rustic, modern...
- Set your overall budget & who's contributing
- Draft an early guest-count range
- Start an inspiration board (hi, Pinterest)
- Tour venues & book the one — lock the date

## 10–12 months LOCK THE BIG VENDORS

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- Hire a planner or day-of coordinator
- Book your videographer
- Start the dress search; book appointments
- Reserve a hotel room block for guests
- Book your photographer
- Book your caterer (if separate from venue)
- Build your full guest list with addresses
- Create your wedding website

# Getting into the details

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## 8–10 months STYLE & SAVE-THE-DATES

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- Order your dress (alterations take time)
- Book your band or DJ
- Choose & order save-the-dates
- Decide on bridesmaid dresses
- Book your florist
- Book your officiant
- Send your save-the-dates
- Sketch your ceremony details

## 6–8 months FOOD, LOOKS & LOGISTICS

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- Book your cake baker; schedule tastings
- Set up your gift registry
- Reserve rentals (linens, chairs, decor)
- Book hair & makeup; schedule a trial
- Arrange transportation (shuttle, car)
- Book the honeymoon; check passports
- Shop groom & groomsmen attire
- Plan the rehearsal dinner

# Pulling it together

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## 4–6 months PAPER & PROMISES

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- Finalize the menu & do a tasting
- Choose your wedding rings
- Confirm honeymoon bookings
- Book any extras (photo booth, late-night snacks)
- Order invitations & stationery
- Plan ceremony readings & vows
- Plan the bachelorette / bachelor party
- Start a day-of timeline draft

## 2–4 months SEND & CONFIRM

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- Mail your invitations (about 8 weeks out)
- First dress fitting
- Write your vows
- Apply for your marriage license
- Finalize the playlist & do-not-play list
- Purchase wedding favors
- Buy gifts for the wedding party & parents
- Confirm details with every vendor

# The final stretch

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## 6–8 weeks NUMBERS & SEATING

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- Track RSVPs; chase the stragglers
- Build your seating chart
- Break in your wedding shoes
- Pick up your marriage license
- Give final guest count to caterer/venue
- Final dress fitting
- Confirm the timeline with photographer & planner
- Write thank-you notes as gifts arrive

## 1–2 weeks HAND IT OFF

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- Confirm arrival times with all vendors
- Prepare final payments & tip envelopes
- Pack for the honeymoon
- Rehearse your vows out loud
- Delegate day-of tasks to your crew
- Assemble a day-of emergency kit
- Confirm transport & hotel details
- Plan something relaxing for yourself

# The big day

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## Day before SET THE STAGE

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- Attend the rehearsal & rehearsal dinner
- Hand rings, vows & payments to your point person
- Eat well & hydrate
- Drop off decor & items at the venue
- Lay out everything you'll need tomorrow
- Get a real night's sleep

## Wedding day SOAK IT IN

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- Eat a proper breakfast
- Take a quiet minute before it all begins
- Marry your favorite person 
- Hair & makeup with your people around you
- Trust your team – you've planned for this
- Dance, eat your cake, and be present

## Want every detail in one place?

This checklist keeps you on schedule — but the day itself has a thousand moving pieces.

**The Ultimate Wedding Planner** turns this whole list into a full workbook, so your budget, guests, vendors, and timeline all live in one beautiful, organized place.

- ♥ The full 12-month checklist, expanded
- ♥ Guest list & RSVP manager
- ♥ Hour-by-hour day-of timeline
- ♥ Budget tracker that adds up for you
- ♥ Vendor contacts & payment tracker
- ♥ Seating chart & menu planner

[Get the full planner →](#)

Instant download · print at home or use on any device.

*Happy planning, bestie.*

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