BRIDAL TEAM · FREE PRINTABLE

Wedding planning checklist

59 tasks, month by month, from just engaged to thank-you notes. Tick each one as you go.

Just engaged — first steps

- [ ] Talk through the wedding you each picture — size, formality, vibe
- [ ] Agree on your top 3 priorities (what you'll spend and splurge on)
- [ ] Pick a rough season or a few candidate dates
- [ ] Set a total budget you're genuinely comfortable with
- [ ] Confirm who is contributing and how much
- [ ] Set aside a 5–8% buffer for surprises
- [ ] Draft a rough guest count — even a range
- [ ] Decide whether children and plus-ones are invited

12–9 months out

- [ ] Tour venues that fit your guest count and budget
- [ ] Book your venue and lock your date
- [ ] Ask the venue what's included vs. extra (tables, chairs, linens, staff)
- [ ] Book your photographer
- [ ] Book your videographer (if you want one)
- [ ] Book your caterer (if not included with the venue)
- [ ] Book your band or DJ
- [ ] Choose your wedding party and ask them
- [ ] Invite your party and family into the plan on Bridal Team

9–6 months out

- [ ] Start shopping for wedding attire
- [ ] Book alterations
- [ ] Choose wedding party attire
- [ ] Lock your color palette and overall style
- [ ] Book your florist
- [ ] Book hair and makeup, and schedule a trial
- [ ] Book your officiant
- [ ] Reserve a hotel room block for out-of-town guests
- [ ] Arrange transportation for the couple and party (and guests if needed)
- [ ] For a destination wedding: confirm travel logistics, marriage-license rules, and a local coordinator

6–3 months out

- [ ] Order save-the-dates and send them
- [ ] Finalize the guest list and collect addresses
- [ ] Order invitations
- [ ] Build your wedding website and registry
- [ ] Plan the engagement party (if you're having one)
- [ ] Coordinate the bridal shower with whoever is hosting
- [ ] Plan the bachelor / bachelorette celebrations
- [ ] Book and plan the rehearsal dinner
- [ ] Consider a day-after brunch for out-of-town guests
- [ ] Order the cake or dessert and schedule a tasting
- [ ] Plan décor, rentals and lighting
- [ ] Decide on favors, signage and stationery extras

3–1 months out

- [ ] Mail your invitations
- [ ] Finalize the menu and any dietary needs with your caterer
- [ ] Confirm the day-of timeline with every vendor
- [ ] Apply for your marriage license (check your local waiting period)
- [ ] Buy wedding rings and allow time for sizing
- [ ] Review every vendor contract and payment schedule
- [ ] Plan vendor gratuities and set the cash aside

The final month

- [ ] Chase any missing RSVPs and give the final headcount to your caterer
- [ ] Build the seating chart
- [ ] Send a detailed day-of schedule to your party and vendors
- [ ] Make final payments and prepare tip envelopes
- [ ] Confirm hair/makeup, transportation and delivery times
- [ ] Pack for the wedding night and honeymoon

Week of & wedding day

- [ ] Attend the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner
- [ ] Hand off tasks — assign someone to manage vendors and payments on the day
- [ ] Get married and celebrate 💍

After the wedding

- [ ] Return any rentals and attire
- [ ] Write thank-you notes
- [ ] Leave reviews for the vendors you loved
- [ ] Handle name changes and update documents (if changing names)

Get this checklist with due dates for your wedding, free, at bridalteam.com/wedding-checklist