

Checklist for Brides in the USA – from Engagement to the Big Day

12 Months Out:

- Protect your precious ring by purchasing insurance.
- Calculate your wedding budget & discuss financial contributions.
- Create Your Guest List by compiling names of family, friends & loved ones.
- Choose the Wedding Party - bridesmaids, groomsmen & other key members.
- Research ceremony/reception locations & choose your venue(s).
- Hire the Photographer & Videographer to capture your memories beautifully.
- Start Dress Shopping & find your dream wedding dress.

11 Months Out:

Confirm the Wedding Date & book the venue.

Attend Bridal Shows & Expos to gather inspiration and meet vendors.

Book all the other suppliers e.g. caterers, florists & entertainment.

Plan the Honeymoon: research destinations & make arrangements.

10 Months Out

- Choose Wedding Party Attire: Bridesmaids' dresses, groomsmen's suits, etc.
- Plan Ceremony and Reception Details: Decide on decor, seating, and more.
- Book Accommodations for Out-of-Town Guests: Arrange hotel blocks.
- Order Wedding Invitations: Customize and send them out.

9 Months Out

Finalize the Guest List: Ensure everyone is accounted for.

- Book the Rehearsal Dinner Venue: Coordinate with your partner's family.
- Meet With Your Officiant: Discuss ceremony details and vows.
- Begin Marriage License Process: Check local requirements.

8 Months Out

Choose Wedding Rings: Shop for bands for you and your partner.

- Plan Transportation: Arrange for wedding-day transportation.
- Book Hair and Makeup Artists: Schedule trials and finalize looks.
- Order Wedding Favors and Gifts: Personalize them for your guests.

7 Months Out

Attend Pre-Marital Counseling (if desired): Prepare for your life together.

- Plan the Rehearsal Dinner: Decide on the menu and location.
- Purchase Wedding Shoes and Accessories: Don't forget comfort!
- Begin Dress Alterations: Ensure the perfect fit.

6 Months Out

Finalize Menu and Cake Details: Attend tastings and make decisions.

- Send Invitations: Include RSVP cards.
- Plan the Seating Chart: Organize tables for the reception.
- Book the Honeymoon: Confirm reservations.

5 Months Out

- Arrange for Wedding-Day Beauty Services: Hair, makeup, and nails.
- Purchase Undergarments and Accessories: Complete your bridal look.
- Plan Bachelor/Bachelorette Parties: Celebrate with friends.
- Attend Bridal Shower: Enjoy the festivities.

4 Months Out

- Confirm Details with Vendors: Double-check contracts and arrangements.
- Schedule Dress Fittings: Ensure the dress fits perfectly.
- Plan the Wedding Ceremony: Choose readings, music, and vows.
- Create a Wedding Registry: Share it with guests.

3 Months Out

- Apply for Marriage License: Visit the local registrar's office.
- Finalize Reception Details: Menu, seating, and entertainment.
- Plan Rehearsal Dinner Speeches: Prepare heartfelt words.
- Send Thank-You Notes for Bridal Shower Gifts: Show appreciation.

2 Months Out

- Finalize Wedding Timeline: Coordinate with vendors and the wedding party.
- Confirm RSVPs: Follow up with guests who haven't responded.
- Pack for the Honeymoon: Don't forget travel essentials.
- Have a Bridal Portrait Session: Capture your beauty before the big day.

1 Month Out

- Finalize Seating Chart and Place Cards: Organize seating arrangements.
- Attend Final Dress Fitting: Make any last-minute adjustments.
- Review Ceremony Details with Officiant: Ensure a smooth ceremony.
- Prepare an Emergency Kit: Include essentials like safety pins and tissues.

Final Week, Night Before, and Day-of

- Rehearse the Ceremony: Practice with the wedding party.

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1. [The Ultimate Wedding-Planning Checklist and Timeline - Brides](#)
 2. [2024 Wedding Planning Checklist + Printable Timeline & To-Do List](#)
 3. [Month-by-Month Wedding Planning Timeline + Excel Template](#)
 4. [Wedding Checklist: Your Complete Wedding Planning Timeline](#)