Checklist · 12 to 10 months before

Check it off, initial the owner, write the due date. Reorder freely — it's your wedding.

12 MONTHS BEFORE

owner · due

- [ ] Set the total budget and who contributes what
- [ ] Draft the guest count — it drives venue and catering
- [ ] Pick 2–3 possible dates before you tour venues
- [ ] Tour and book the ceremony and reception venue
- [ ] Book the officiant
- [ ] Decide on a planner or a day-of coordinator
- [ ] Start the wedding website and a shared wedding inbox

11 MONTHS BEFORE

owner · due

- [ ] Book the photographer
- [ ] Book the videographer
- [ ] Book the caterer, or confirm the venue's catering
- [ ] Choose the wedding party and ask them
- [ ] Start dress / suit shopping
- [ ] Schedule engagement photos

10 MONTHS BEFORE

owner · due

- [ ] Book the florist
- [ ] Book the DJ or band
- [ ] Book ceremony musicians
- [ ] Reserve hotel room blocks for guests
- [ ] Send save-the-dates (earlier for a destination wedding)
- [ ] Book hair and makeup

NOTES FOR THIS STRETCH · THINGS THAT CAME UP

Checklist · 9 to 7 months before

Check it off, initial the owner, write the due date. Reorder freely — it's your wedding.

9 MONTHS BEFORE

owner · due

- [ ] Order the dress — allow 4–6 months plus alterations
- [ ] Choose suits and wedding-party attire
- [ ] Book transportation for the couple and the party
- [ ] Book rentals: tent, chairs, tables, linens
- [ ] Set up the gift registry
- [ ] Plan the honeymoon; check passport expiry dates

8 MONTHS BEFORE

owner · due

- [ ] Menu and cake tastings
- [ ] Order invitations and day-of stationery
- [ ] Book the rehearsal-dinner venue
- [ ] Meet the officiant; premarital sessions if required
- [ ] Choose ceremony readings and music

7 MONTHS BEFORE

owner · due

- [ ] Order wedding rings — allow time for sizing and engraving
- [ ] Finalize the floral and decor plan
- [ ] Book extras: lighting, photo booth, late-night snacks
- [ ] Shop for shoes, veil and accessories
- [ ] Plan guest welcome bags

NOTES FOR THIS STRETCH · THINGS THAT CAME UP

Checklist · 6 to 4 months before

Check it off, initial the owner, write the due date. Reorder freely — it's your wedding.

6 MONTHS BEFORE

owner · due

- [ ] Destination wedding: mail invitations now
- [ ] Confirm hotel blocks and cut-off dates
- [ ] Dress fitting #1
- [ ] Book honeymoon flights and hotels
- [ ] List the speeches and who gives them

5 MONTHS BEFORE

owner · due

- [ ] Confirm ceremony structure with the officiant
- [ ] Decide the menu options for the RSVP card
- [ ] Order favors, if you're doing them
- [ ] Plan the rehearsal-dinner menu
- [ ] Buy wedding-party gifts

4 MONTHS BEFORE

owner · due

- [ ] Finalize must-play and do-not-play lists
- [ ] Order signage, programs and menus
- [ ] Plan the bachelor / bachelorette weekend
- [ ] Dress fitting #2
- [ ] Confirm transportation routes and times

NOTES FOR THIS STRETCH · THINGS THAT CAME UP

Checklist · 3 to 1 months before

Check it off, initial the owner, write the due date. Reorder freely — it's your wedding.

3 MONTHS BEFORE

owner · due

- [ ] Mail invitations (6–8 weeks out; RSVP due 3–4 weeks before) _____ _____
- [ ] Finalize the shot list with the photographer _____ _____
- [ ] Confirm rental counts against the guest list _____ _____
- [ ] Buy and break in the shoes _____ _____
- [ ] Write the vows _____ _____

2 MONTHS BEFORE

owner · due

- [ ] Marriage license: check your county — waiting periods and validity windows vary (often 30–90 days) _____ _____
- [ ] Final fitting _____ _____
- [ ] Confirm the timeline and arrival times with every vendor _____ _____
- [ ] Chase missing RSVPs _____ _____
- [ ] Draft the seating chart _____ _____

1 MONTH BEFORE

owner · due

- [ ] Final headcount to the caterer and venue _____ _____
- [ ] Final payments and tip envelopes, labeled _____ _____
- [ ] Print place cards, menus and programs _____ _____
- [ ] Send the day-of timeline to every vendor and the party _____ _____
- [ ] Pack the emergency kit _____ _____
- [ ] Confirm the rehearsal time and place _____ _____

Marriage license rules are set by the county: some have a 1–3 day wait, most licenses expire in 30–90 days. Call before you go.

NOTES FOR THIS STRETCH · THINGS THAT CAME UP

Final countdown

Two weeks, one week, the day before, the morning of.

2 WEEKS BEFORE

owner · due

- [ ] Pick up the dress / suit
- [ ] Confirm hair and makeup arrival times
- [ ] Assign day-of jobs: rings, gifts, vendor tips, decor pickup
- [ ] Send the final seating chart to the venue
- [ ] Break in shoes at home

1 WEEK BEFORE

owner · due

- [ ] Steam or press attire
- [ ] Confirm every vendor by phone
- [ ] Pack for the honeymoon
- [ ] Hand rings to the best man / honor attendant
- [ ] Put cash tips in labeled envelopes

THE DAY BEFORE

owner · due

- [ ] Rehearsal and rehearsal dinner
- [ ] Drop decor, signage and guest book at the venue
- [ ] Charge phones and cameras
- [ ] Lay out everything for the morning
- [ ] Early night

WEDDING MORNING

owner · due

- [ ] Eat breakfast — really
- [ ] Drink water
- [ ] Hand off the emergency kit
- [ ] Give your phone to a friend
- [ ] Be where the timeline says at the time it says

WHO HAS WHAT ON THE DAY

Rings _____

Vendor tip envelopes _____

Card box key / gifts _____

Marriage license _____

Emergency kit _____

Budget summary

Planned vs. actual vs. paid, by category. Remaining = actual − paid.

Total budget $ _____ Contributions: us $ _____ family $ _____

CATEGORY	TYP. %	PLANNED $	ACTUAL $	PAID $	REMAINING $
Venue	28				
Catering & bar	20				
Photography	9				
Videography	6				
Florals & decor	8				
Wedding attire	7				
Hair & makeup	2				
Music / DJ / band	5				
Invitations & stationery	2				
Wedding rings	3				
Officiant	1				
Transportation	2				
Planner / coordinator	3				
Favors & gifts	1				
Cake & desserts	2				
Buffer / unexpected	1				
TOTAL	100				

typ. % = a typical US split from industry cost surveys. It is a starting point for 'Planned', not a rule — write your own numbers.

NOT IN A CATEGORY YET