

Wedding Checklist

Just Engaged

Done?

Discuss

Sit down with your new fiancé and discuss what you both want from the wedding; when you want it, ideas you have, themes etc.

Be inspired

This will be ongoing, but start with bridal, lifestyle and food magazines. Sign up to Pinterest if you haven't already.

Budget yourself

It is best to sort this out right at the beginning, be realistic and ask what your family are willing to provide too.

Who's in?

You will want to decide the bridal party and groomsmen as early as possible, you will be able to incorporate them in the planning stages to!

Guest list

Make yourself a database including contact information, RSVPs, plus ones and any other relevant information. The best way to keep costs low will be to, as brutal as it may be, cut the guest count. This may also affect your choice of venue.

Set the date

You may have thought of this earlier on, but if not then this needs to be set. Do you want a summer or winter wedding? If you have a venue in mind this may influence your date as it may be unavailable on your specific date, also check availability with the bridesmaids and groomsmen.

Planning

Will you want to hire a planner? If so, now is the time to look. You will have some ideas in your head, but may need help putting it all together, a planner will also have good contacts in the industry.

The venue

If you don't have one in mind then go to some open days, wedding fairs and do some research online. Keep in mind whether you want a separate location for your ceremony and reception, and factor in the travel between. You have time, so don't rush and book the first venue you see unless you absolutely love it.

Get creative

If you are a creative individual think of ways you can DIY, if you have family members and friends who can help with any aspects of your wedding, think cake, music, hair, make up, flowers, stationary, dress etc, let them know you would like to get them involved.

Celebrate

If you are looking to hold an engagement party, now is the time! Only invite those who are on your guest list.

12 Months Before

Done?

Book your venue

If you haven't already. Before you go any further, you will want to see whether the venue have preferred suppliers and whether you would be happy to use them. Bringing in outside caterers, décor etc. it could come at a hefty price.

Book your officiant

If a religious ceremony, now that you have your venue, you can find someone suitable.

Hotel availability

Check in the local area that guests will be able to stay in a hotel, or if the venue has a hotel that you can book a section off.

Find your suppliers

Research the potential suppliers you will want to use, look for photography portfolios, take advantage of any taster classes for hair and make up, visit restaurants where caterers serve food and order as many brochures as you like. You may want your stationary to match, from the invites to the menus on the day, if so find someone who is not very busy as you will need to get your invites out soon.

Meet the caterers

You should have the option to try food, from here you can decide whether you want to have a three course sit down meal, canapés or a buffet. Make sure you know the cost per head, as catering can be one of the most expensive aspects.

Book entertainment

Decide on the type you want, whether it be a band or DJ, disco or some entertainment during dinner.

Book your photographer

A very important part of the wedding, make sure you get the one you want by booking in advance. Save yourself some money by booking one who does video as well, and capture even more memories.

Décor

Use magazines and Pinterest to get some ideas for decoration. Get your suppliers to send you moodboards once you have an idea of a theme, get an idea of a colour scheme too as a lot of other aspects will be led by this.

Dress

Book some slots at wedding dress shops to see what you like and what suits you. Even when you find a dress you will need to factor in time for fittings, finding a veil, shoes, jewellery etc.

Save the date

Time to send out your invites! Use the database you used to create the guest list to keep track of your RSVPs.

Register

There are many sites and apps available to register with, send links and information over to those guest who have confirmed they can attend.

8/10Months Before

Done?

Think about a plan B

Even if you are having a summer wedding, the British weather is notoriously unpredictable. Think about your options such as hiring a marquee, umbrellas and ask your suppliers what they offer for full peace of mind.

Groomsmen's suits

Whether just for the best man, or the whole groom's party. Find a tailor or suit hire company you like, get measured, find a design that suits the colour scheme and theme.

Bridesmaids dresses

Go shopping with your bridesmaids. Even finding a date when everyone is free might be difficult, when you have an idea of your dress and the colour scheme the type of dress you would like should become clearer. Make sure you have enough time to find and order in the dresses, especially if you need a variety of sizes—don't forget to factor in time for fittings.

Wedding cake

Hopefully by now you have found a supplier you like or have an idea of the cake you would like. Meet with your supplier and let them give you a time frame so you can organise pick up, delivery etc.

Honeymoon

Sit down with your partner and figure out where you want to go and for how long. Make sure you can get the time off work, and book that off before you book any flights or accommodation. When you are booking the honeymoon, try and get any deals or free upgrades that you can.

Hen and stag parties

Hopefully organised by the bridesmaids and groomsmen! If not, give them a gentle nudge.

4/6 months before

Order wedding stationary

By now you should have a very good idea of numbers. Now is the time to order the stationary for the day and official invitations, get a sample before you get them all printed.

Flowers

If you have chosen your dress and the bridesmaid's dresses then this is the ideal time to meet with your florist to discuss your options.

Rehearsal dinner

Book your venue, if you can't use your chosen one for the rehearsal, choose a menu, outfits and let everyone who needs to attend know the date.

Transport

Whether you are looking to get a horse and cart, vintage car, classic VW camper or a Ferrari now is the time to decide. Also whether you will be providing transport for your guests.

2/3 Months Before

Done?

Touch base with suppliers

You are likely to be in touch with them frequently, but if you aren't or haven't heard from some in a while now is the time to just give them a call and check everything is ok.

Schedule

Put together a first draft of how you would like the day to go, send it across to vendors for them to add or change anything, then finalise it.

Wedding rings

Choose and order the wedding rings.

Suits and dresses

Make sure you have everything fitted, booked and ready for the big day.

Hair and make up

Do the research and book a trial, see what styles you like and then book someone you feel comfortable with doing the job on the day.

Music

Choose the style of music you would like your DJ or band to play, pick your first dance song and if necessary choose your prayers, readings and music for the religious ceremony.

Menu

Contact your caterer and finalise the menu.

Speeches

Ask your chosen loved ones whether they would agree to doing a speech, and give them enough time to put it together.

Write vows

Traditional or otherwise, give yourself plenty of time to write your wedding vows, after all they are the promises you make to your loved one on your big day and you don't want to rush them and get them wrong! If your stuck for inspiration there are lots of online sources full of real life examples you can draw upon.

Favours

Do some research and order the favours, you will be ordering a lot of stock so make sure you give yourself enough time for availability.

Meet with the photographer

Whether you have an idea of a list of shots or not, take them to the location and get an idea of what photographs you want from the day.

Invitations

Now that things are coming together, send an invite to those who have RSVP'd yes. They will need to know the venue address, timings and whether transport and accommodation has been arranged for them or whether they need to organise this for themselves.

One Month Before

Done?

Guest List

Make sure your database is up-to-date and phone anyone who hasn't yet responded.

Registry Office

Give notice to your local Registry office, you have at least 28 days to get married after giving notice.

Visit the dress maker

Hopefully for the last fitting! For peace of mind schedule a fitting for the week of your wedding.

Stock the bar

With a better idea of a guest count, order accordingly.

Gifts

A wedding takes a lot of effort to organise and everyone has worked hard to make your big day special, a nice gesture would be to buy your bridesmaids/groomsmen, parents and each other gifts.

Confirm times

From wedding cake delivery to when the caterer will be on site. Check timings with all of your vendors.

Assign seating

Draw out a table plan showing seating arrangements, factor in time for re-planning, you'll need to make sure everyone is happy with where and who they're seated with!

Hen/Stag party

Enjoy the celebration!

Week of the wedding

Suppliers

Confirm head count and timings, send over to the caterer and all venues. Drop off everything necessary to the reception, such as table plan. Make sure you have emergency contact details from all of your suppliers who won't be there on the day. Put any tips you will be giving to suppliers in marked envelopes so you can enjoy the day.

Schedule

If you haven't already, send a schedule to everyone who will be closely involved in the day. Delegate tasks to anyone suitable.

Dress

Pick it up and keep it safe.

Pack a bag

For your wedding night/weekend and then your honeymoon too!

Enjoy!

Notes

