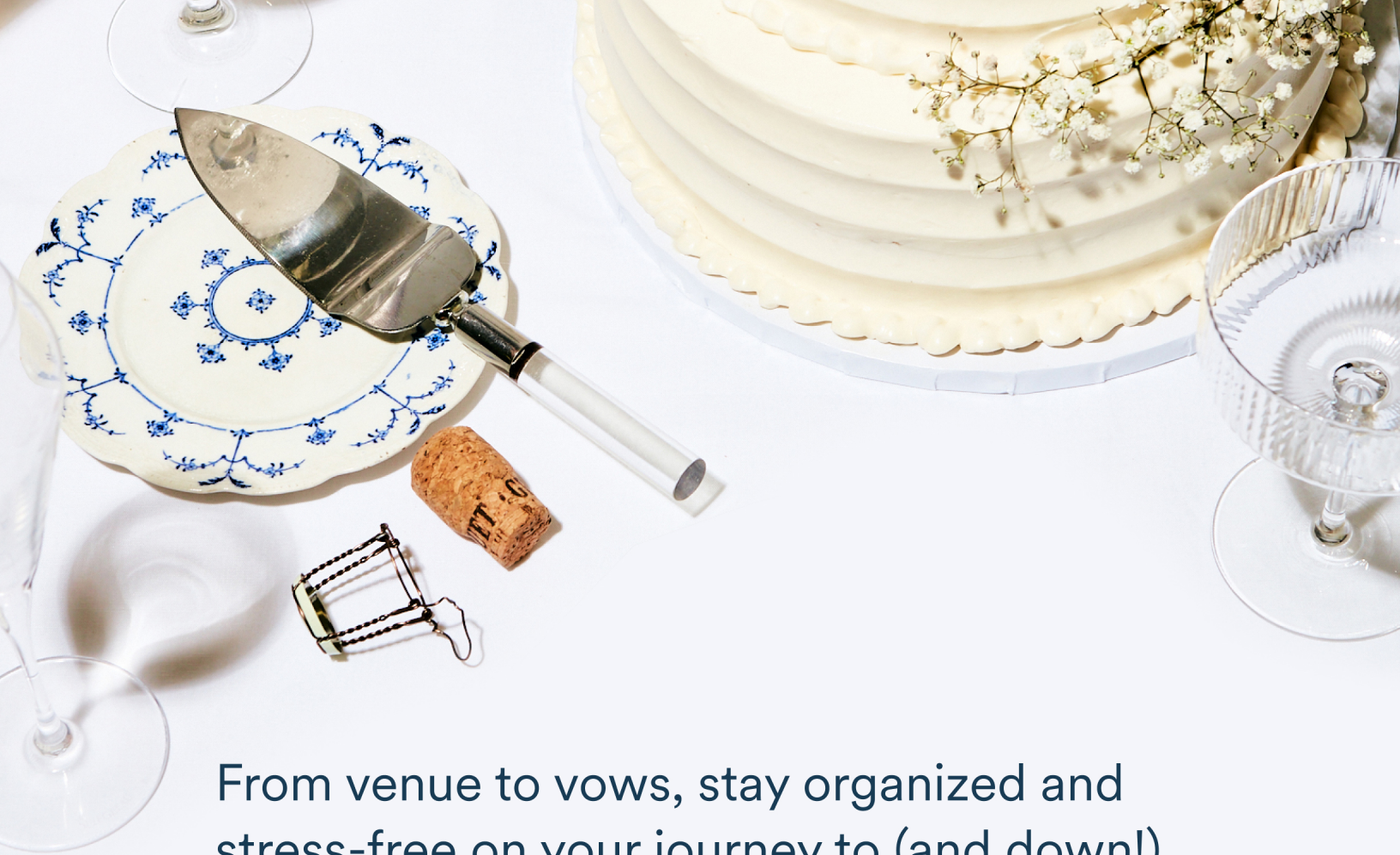




# The Ultimate Wedding Planning **Checklist & Timeline**

Plan your wedding with our detailed checklist.



From venue to vows, stay organized and stress-free on your journey to (and down!) the aisle. There have been **so many days leading up to this day** — the day you met, the day you said I love you, your first trip together — and now you have even more milestones to experience together ahead of the big day.

You can download and print the wedding checklist below. It's incredibly comprehensive down to the tiniest detail, and it starts 12 months out! But breathe easy. You can tailor it to your needs, delete items that don't apply, and shorten (or lengthen) the timeline to make it uniquely yours

# Getting started

Congratulations—you're engaged! It's time to dip your toes into the world of wedding planning. Here's where to start.

- Celebrate your engagement!
- Take a look around Zola and get familiar with your wedding checklist.
- Decide the general location of where you'll get married.
- Decide who is hosting, and paying.
- Start building your guest list and discuss the size of the wedding you want.
- Find your wedding planning community.
- Gather wedding inspiration and be ready to show it to vendors.
- Announce your engagement formally, if you like.

# 12 Months out

- Create a wedding-specific email address and Google Drive.
- Have the budget talk, and find a wedding budget tool or tracker that works for you.
- Consider an engagement celebration or party.
- Decide who is hosting, and paying.
- Set up a wedding website or online platform for your guests.
- Start researching wedding and reception venues.

# 11 Months out

- Book your wedding venue
- Start researching other wedding vendors, now that you have your date.
- Choose your wedding party, if you're having one.
- Consider creating and/or purchasing thank-you cards for early engagement gifts.
- Start thinking about your wedding registry.
- Discuss and finalize the style or theme of your wedding.

# 10 Months out

- Start your Zola registry.
- Select and book your photographer and videographer.
- Take engagement photos.
- Finalize your honeymoon destination and start making reservations.
- Choose and meet with your officiant.
- Consider and plan pre-marital counseling, if you like.
- Start talking about details for your bachelorette and bachelor parties.
- Schedule appointments to try on wedding attire.

# 9 Months out

- Schedule and hold tastings with potential caterers.
- Consider a room block at a nearby hotel.
- Book your florist and start sharing inspiration photos.
- Start gathering items for your day-of emergency kit.

# 8 Months out

- Send your save the dates.
- Book your DJ or band, and create a playlist.
- Make decisions about the wedding party attire, like your bridesmaids' dresses and groomsmen's suits.
- Choose and book any additional entertainment for the reception.
- Look into permits you might need, like for outdoor photography or alcohol service.
- Start planning your honeymoon.

# 7 Months out

- Start planning any DIY projects, so you'll have plenty of time to finish them.
- Confirm any rental items, like specialty linens or décor.
- Organize a spa day or wellness session to help you relax.
- Look into the process of changing your name, if you decide to, as each state varies.
- Review any contracts and schedule all necessary payments.  
(Zola's wedding budget tool can track your wedding payments for you!)

# 6 Months out

- Conduct a walk-through of the venue with key vendors.
- Plan any additional parties or showers.
- Research marriage license requirements.
- Consider plans for a post-wedding brunch or gathering.
- Add gifts to your Zola registry.

# 5 Months out

- Decide on wedding gowns, dresses, or suits, and schedule fittings.
- Create a plan B in case of bad weather (outdoor weddings only!)
- Choose your wedding invitation design.
- Discuss rehearsal dinner details, including your guest list and location.
- Research bakers and schedule cake tastings
- Consider and order favors for guests.
- Start shaping your ceremony with readings, vows, and tunes.
- Finalize details with your florist.

# 4 Months out

- Determine and order any signage for the wedding.
- If you'll have a first dance, consider booking some dance lessons.
- Order your wedding invitations.
- Book your baker.
- Book your wedding day hairstylist and makeup artist.
- Book venues for additional events during the weekend.
- Get wedding day transportation for your wedding party and guests.
- Research and book a location or suite to get ready on your wedding day.

# 3 Months out

- Decide if you'd like to book musicians for your ceremony.
- Make decisions about the "send-off" – sparklers, bubbles, etc.
- Choose and buy gifts for the wedding party, parents, and others.
- Start making a must-have shot list for the photographer.
- Finalize any specialty cocktail or drink menu details.
- Book your rehearsal dinner venue.
- Choose and order a guestbook.
- Confirm honeymoon plans and prep all your travel documents.

# 2 Months out

- Send out your wedding invitations
- Order wedding rings.
- Organize activities or welcome bags for out-of-town guests.
  - Review the RSVP list and reach out to any guests who have yet to respond. (Take the stress out of this one with Zola's Contact Collector which allows you to text guests with RSVP reminders!)
- Confirm the date, set up time, and location with all vendors.
- Finalize menus for all events.
- Organize the day-of schedule for the wedding party.
- Confirm honeymoon plans and prep all your travel documents.
- Start writing your vows.
- Make sure your officiant's license or registration is all set.
- Buy any wedding accessories you're planning on wearing.
- First dress fitting.

# 1 Month out

- Finalize and print your ceremony programs, menus, table numbers, and place cards.
- Select the ceremony music.
- Create the order for the processional and recessional.
- Finalize your day-of timeline.
- Contact any guests who haven't responded to RSVPs, and finalize the guest list.
- Finalize the seating chart.
- Get your marriage license.
- Second dress fitting and alterations.
- Confirm details with your transportation company.
- Confirm hotel accommodations and room blocks.
- Confirm the shot list with your photographer.
- Schedule any beauty appointments.
- Finalize all DIY projects.

# 1 Week before

- Pack for your honeymoon!
- Prepare final payments and put tips in envelopes for your vendors.
- Give any final details and numbers to the caterer.
- Gather any items needed for the ceremony and reception, including your day-of emergency kit.
- Have a final meeting or call with the wedding planner or coordinator.

# Day before

- Rehearse the ceremony with the wedding party.
- Confirm the delivery times and locations with all vendors.
- Organize and pack items for your wedding day.
- Have a relaxing evening, and get a good night's sleep!

# Day of

- Follow your beauty regimen (hair, makeup).
- Make sure your wedding party is on schedule and has all their items.
- Exchange gifts with your partner.
- Delegate any last-minute tasks to trusted family or friends.
- Enjoy the special moments.

# After the wedding

- Send out thank-you cards.
- Order a wedding album.
- Return any rentals or borrowed items.
- Change your name on documents.
- Review and finalize your wedding photo and video edits.
- Preserve your wedding dress, if you'll do that.
- Reflect and reminisce on the beautiful memories you've made!