

Guestiquette Wedding Planning Timeline

12 months +:

- Make a list of your wants versus your needs for your wedding.
- Decide on a budget and savings plan to get you there.
- Reserve your ceremony site and officiate.
- Start to put together a guest list for a preliminary count.
- Visit reception sites and decide on location. You may want to consider having everything at a hotel. By doing so you will save yourself time and money with packaging your weekend. You'll also have a better grip on what your guests will be doing.
- Decide if you're going to plan your wedding yourself or work on finding a wedding planner or day-of coordinator.

9-12 months:

- Brides: Start the search for your dream wedding gown, veil and accessories.
- Choose your attendants (Maid of Honor, Best Man, Bridesmaids, Groomsmen, Flower Girl and Ring Bearer).
- Begin looking through wedding magazines or wedding websites for inspiration on wedding details, such as the colors of the wedding/reception.
- Begin your search for a photographer. Make sure to look for one who matches your style and personality.
- Select a videographer that works well with your photographer.
- Begin looking for your band or DJ. Sometimes cover bands are a great way to find inexpensive raw talent.
- Start thinking about your honeymoon destination and budget and looking out for deals.
- Once you have secured your photographer, set an appointment for an engagement photo session.

6-9 months:

- Brides: Take your bridesmaids out to search for their dresses. Remember to keep an open mind and look for styles that suit different body types. (Everyone is going to have their say. Be patient.)
- Start a bridal registry. Giving your guests 2-3 store choices will make it easier for everyone when purchasing a gift. You may even want to register for your honeymoon or with some of your vendors! Visit www.HiltonHHonors.com/transfer to register for HHonors gift points.
- Contact a hotel close to the venue to reserve room blocks. The Hilton Family online booking tool allows you to search from a variety of hotels for different budgets, reserve and manage your guest room block.
- Find a florist that will assist you in creating your vision.
- Select a caterer if one hasn't been assigned to you by your reception site.


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- Reserve all party rental equipment needed for your ceremony or reception (tent, tables, chairs, lighting, etc.), if applicable.
- Create a wedding website and make sure to include key information about your hotel room blocks so your guests can easily book online.
- Select and send out save the date cards. Make sure to include your wedding website with information about your wedding room block so out of town guests know where to reserve their hotel rooms. The Hilton Family allows you to create a customized group webpage.
- Start looking at invitations, personal stationery and thank you cards.
- Finalize all travel arrangements and honeymoon plans. Make sure you have an updated passport. The last thing you want to deal with at the airport is an expired passport on the way to your honeymoon.

4-6 months:

- Grooms: Order formalwear and select style for your groomsman. Make sure to include the father of bride and groom too!
- Brides: Begin the search for your makeup artist and hair stylist, if applicable. It is not unusual to have a trial that you are not pleased with, so it's good to try a couple different options.
- Begin thinking about favors for the reception. Making a donation instead of giving out a favor and announcing it on a card is a nice touch! Candy bars are becoming increasingly popular too—they are a less expensive option and your guests will love the colorful confectionary!
- Begin the search for rehearsal dinner locations. Consider working with the hotel that you've booked your wedding or guest rooms at so you have one less vendor to work with, or ask the hotel for recommendations in the immediate area.
- Finalize the guest list. It's time to get the invites ordered. This starts the countdown to the most exciting day of your life!
- Reserve wedding day transportation for your bridal party and guests from out of town. Your hotel may be able to provide free shuttle service to locations close by.
- Make Bachelorette and Bachelor party plans.

2-4 months:

- Address all wedding invitations. Decide how you want to address the outer envelope, such as using calligraphy.
- Buy gifts for your wedding party. Brides: Matching jewelry for their gowns or a personalized gift is always well received.
- Set a date for the bridesmaids' luncheon. Try to make this 2-4 weeks prior to the wedding.
- Go to your favorite jeweler to buy the wedding bands. This makes things nearly official!
- Announce your engagement in local newspapers.
- Confirm delivery dates of bridal gown and bridesmaids' dresses
- Meet with caterer to discuss menu and special food/allergy needs of guests, if applicable.
- Select your ceremony music and any special readings you want for your ceremony. If you decide to write your vows, now's the time to start.
- Set a time to meet with your priest or officiate.
- Arrange ceremony rehearsal and notify participants of your wedding day timeline and weekend activities.


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1-2 months:

- Contact your local county clerk's office for marriage license details, and schedule date to obtain one!
- Mail invitations (Make sure to do this 2 months prior to the wedding).
- Set up a good way to track your RSVP's. For example, many wedding planning websites allow you to manage this online.
- Brides: Arrange for final fittings on your gown as well as your attendants' dresses if applicable.
- Confirm all travel and honeymoon arrangements.
- Design and print a program for your ceremony.

- Conduct menu tasting and make final menu selections.
- Start the preliminary reception seating chart and place cards.
- Don't forget to purchase all wedding accessories such as guest book or plate with pen, unity candle, toasting glasses, cake knife and server and flower girl/ring bearer accessories.

4-6 weeks:

- Contact anyone that has not responded yet to find out if they will be in attendance.
- Finish the seating chart and making the place cards.
- Confirm final guest count to caterer and reception site.
- Write rehearsal dinner and wedding toasts.
- Host the bridesmaids' luncheon.
- Reconfirm your guests' accommodations on line, check room blocks and start making the out-of-town welcome baskets. Remember to add a special note about the weekend along with an agenda of what's yet to come. Add shuttle information, if applicable.

1 week:

- Confirm your honeymoon reservations with the travel agent.
- Review all of your photographer, video, DJ and vendor information.
- Make sure all wedding attire fits, especially for the groom and his attendants, who may be renting their suit or tux.
- Have final consultation with caterer, florist, musicians, photographer and videographer.
- Count vendor meals and add to final guest meal count for caterer.
- Finish any outstanding place cards, menu cards and other various forms of stationary for the reception. Drop this off with your wedding reception supplies (e.g., toasting glasses, cake knife, etc.) when you make your final payment at your venue.
- Finalize seating arrangements.
- Begin packing for honeymoon.



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The Day Before:

- Brides: Get a manicure and pedicure. Stay away from waxing or facials. This can over-stimulate the skin.
- Hold your wedding rehearsal.
- Present gifts to your bridal attendants at the rehearsal dinner.
- Put vendor gratuities and fees due on the wedding day in envelopes for the best man, maid of honor or planner to distribute.
- Make sure your rings and marriage license are in a safe place.
- Brides: Take your dress out of its bag so it can breathe and stay wrinkle free.
- Bring your marriage license to the wedding rehearsal for the officiate or priest.
- Try and get to bed early. You will need lots of rest and relaxation before the big day!

The Big Day:

- Allow yourself plenty of time to get dressed.
- Prepare for your hair and makeup appointments.
- Make sure you drink lots of water and eat a good breakfast to keep your energy level up. Keep healthy snacks to munch on throughout the day as you prepare.
- Most importantly enjoy your day! Don't focus on the little things than may occur. You cannot control everything.

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