



## Wedding Planning Time Line

(All planners and worksheets are available online in a printable format at [ContemporaryBride.com/planner](http://ContemporaryBride.com/planner))

**Stress-Free  
Wedding  
Planning!**

Time Line

### One Year Before

- ☐ Announce your engagement to friends and family.
- ☐ Choose your wedding style and formality.
- ☐ Set a tentative date for your wedding (this may change according to the availability of the vendors in which you are interested).
- ☐ Work out your budget – Know how much you have to spend before you start hiring vendors. Consider hiring a bridal consultant to help you plan.
- ☐ Start shopping for engagement and wedding rings.
- ☐ Prepare your provisional guest list to determine the size of your wedding.
- ☐ Select your bridal party and wedding day assistant and discuss important events they will need to attend.
- ☐ Decide on a ceremony site: Whether it's a house of worship or a hotel lobby, you need to know where you will exchange vows.
- ☐ Choose and reserve your officiant.
- ☐ Use the Banquet Facilities Directory in this magazine to search for a reception location and secure your date with a deposit.
- ☐ Choose a caterer if one is not available at your reception location.
- ☐ Decide where to book your rehearsal dinner location. This could be the location where your reception will take place, a banquet facility, restaurant or at home.
- ☐ Check with your officiant's schedule for the rehearsal dinner.
- ☐ Shop for your dress – It can take several months for your dress to arrive, and then you may need several fittings.
- ☐ After you've found your dress, schedule your fittings and delivery date. Then select the bridesmaids' gowns.
- ☐ Start the search for your wedding vendors. Photographers and Videographers get booked early, so start with them first.
- ☐ Begin the search for your transportation, flowers, rentals and stationery.



- ☐ Speak to a travel agent about honeymoon destinations and update your passports and vaccinations if necessary.
- ☐ For Jewish weddings, order the Ketubah.

### 9 Months Before

- ☐ Start finalizing the guest list and gathering addresses.
- ☐ Choose a Bridal Registry and register for your gift preferences.
- ☐ Select and order groom's and attendants' attire. Decide whether to purchase or rent. Schedule fittings and pick-up or delivery date.
- ☐ Finalize all wedding vendors and secure your date by putting down deposits.
- ☐ Once you've chosen your wedding photographer, schedule your engagement photos to be taken and submit your announcement to the newspaper.
- ☐ Finalize the plans for your honeymoon.
- ☐ Select and order your invitations.
- ☐ Consider wedding insurance.



### 6 Months Before

- ☐ Prepare all maps and directions for the ceremony and reception.
- ☐ Meet with your florist and choose floral arrangements for the ceremony and reception, as well as bouquets for you and your bridesmaids.
- ☐ Meet with all your wedding vendors to finalize any orders and reservations.
- ☐ Plan your bridesmaids luncheon and any other parties.
- ☐ Order your wedding cake if your caterer doesn't provide one.
- ☐ Begin doing your research for your marriage license and blood tests.
- ☐ Meet with both sets of parents to coordinate their attire.



## 4 Months Before

- ☐ Reserve accommodations for out-of-town guests. Research things to do in town during their stay.
- ☐ Address and send out your invitations and announcements. Include information regarding the accommodations.
- ☐ Arrange for final dress fittings.
- ☐ Purchase wedding guest book.
- ☐ Order your wedding favors, bridal party gifts and other wedding accessories (champagne glasses, ring bearer pillow, cake knife, etc.).



## 2 Months Before

- ☐ Make appointment with your beautician for wedding day hair styles for you and your bridal party. Set up any other appointments for pre-wedding cuts, colors or perms.
- ☐ Make appointments for you and your bridal party to get manicures, pedicures, massages, spa treatments, etc.
- ☐ Choose a make-up artist and schedule a trial.
- ☐ Start gathering your RSVPs.
- ☐ Finalize your dates for your last-minute dress fittings.
- ☐ Purchase bridal party gifts and gift for your fiancé.
- ☐ Assign a friend or family member, not in the wedding party, to be your "wedding assistant" for the day of your wedding to help with special photos and songs.



## 1 Month Before

- ☐ Finalize and confirm all ceremony & reception plans.
- ☐ Finalize rehearsal dinner details.
- ☐ Go over song lists and requests with your band or DJ.
- ☐ Give your photographer a "must-have list" – a list of posed photographs you want taken.
- ☐ Confirm when final payments need to be made to vendors.
- ☐ Call guests who have not responded.
- ☐ Draw up seating arrangements for the reception.
- ☐ Have a "practice" session with the hairstylists and make-up artists you will use on your wedding day.
- ☐ Make a date with your fiancé to get your marriage license and blood tests.
- ☐ Start taking care of business such as name changes, address changes, etc...



## 2-3 Weeks Before

- ☐ Pick up wedding rings.
- ☐ Confirm all arrival times with vendors.
- ☐ Confirm hotel arrangements for out-of-town guests.
- ☐ Have your final dress fitting.
- ☐ Make copies of the "Wedding Day 411" in this magazine and give to your groom, bridal party and your wedding day assistant.

## 1 Week Before

- ☐ Give the caterer your final guest count.
- ☐ Pack your bags for the honeymoon.
- ☐ Arrange for the pick-up of your bridal attire.
- ☐ Have final fittings for groom and groomsmen and schedule the return of the groom's tuxedo (usually the best man will return it for him).
- ☐ Ask your bridal party to help with post-wedding tasks.
- ☐ Give gifts to your wedding party, family and fiancé privately, or at the rehearsal dinner.
- ☐ Make arrangements for your wedding gifts to be brought to your "new" home.



## 1-2 Days Before

- ☐ Get a manicure and/or pedicure.
- ☐ Confirm flight arrangements for the honeymoon.
- ☐ Make payment envelopes for each vendor and give them to your wedding day assistant along with your marriage license to take care of at the wedding.
- ☐ Arrange a get-away car for after the reception to include all your honeymoon essentials (luggage, tickets, etc.).
- ☐ Put together a bridal emergency kit for your wedding day including stockings, sewing kit, safety pins, etc.
- ☐ Compile a list of all your wedding vendors with phone numbers to ensure a stress-free wedding.
- ☐ Attend your rehearsal dinner.
- ☐ *Get plenty of rest before the big day!*

## Your Wedding Day (finally)!

- ☐ Get your hair and make-up done early.
- ☐ Make sure you get plenty to eat and drink a lot of water. You don't want to faint.
- ☐ Relax and enjoy yourself.

