

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 _____	Marriage license _____
Vendor tip envelopes _____	Emergency kit _____
Card box key / gifts _____	

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