



The Less-Refined Mind

Think Better, Live Better... Feel Better

Plan Your Dream Wedding With This Ultimate Timeline Checklist!

To Do List - Wedding Timeline: First Tasks

- **Decide wedding date**

Keep in mind that the date and the day of the week are likely to affect costs. And also how many invitations are declined.

- **Work out your budget**

I cannot stress enough how important it is to both create and stick to a budget. Working to a super tight budget? Check out [four ruthless ways to slash your wedding costs](#).

- **Consider throwing an engagement party, funds permitting**

- **Decide whether you will have a church wedding or civil ceremony**

If you wish to marry in church, there are [regulations](#) in place that may make it less than straight forward.

- **Start considering the wedding party and guest list**

The size of your wedding will inevitably affect your venue and budget.

- **Collect wedding magazines**

Or use Pinterest to start getting an idea of themes, colour schemes – and perhaps most importantly – [The Dress](#).

- **Research wedding venues**

- **Visit venues to enable you to select a favourite/s**

To Do List - Wedding Timeline: First Tasks Cont.

- Check chosen availability for your date
- Check registrar availability for your chosen date
- Secure each with a deposit – once both confirmed available
- Research photographers/videographers/entertainment/florists/transport/caterers

Note some venues will have in-house caterers who you're obliged to use.

- Check availability and secure with deposit
- Make final decision about wedding party and tell/ask the people involved!
Most will feel honoured to be a part of your special occasion – however, weddings are expensive and this is their opportunity to opt out.

Notes...

Wedding Timeline: Six – Eight Months To Go

- If you've not already (as if you need reminding about this one) – go dress shopping!

- Start detoxing now

Whilst I do not necessarily advocate it, if you do intend losing weight before your big day, now is the time to think about your eating habits and exercise plan. For guidance, check out [this](#) post.

- Begin thinking about a honeymoon budget/destination

This is a good time to consider your gift list, if you wish to have one. It's becoming very common and widely accepted as the new norm to request monetary bequests towards your honeymoon.

- Consider registering with retailers if you choose to request traditional wedding gifts

- If you're tech savvy, launch a wedding site

This is a really fab way for people who are gifting cash to see where the money will be spent.

- Decide how you will invite guests and purchase invitations/buy materials for your DIY project

- Purchase your dress and book alterations

Dresses can be bought off the peg; but if you covet a dress made to order, including alterations, it usually takes around six months from first ordering the dress to having it fit perfectly.

- Send save the date cards

- Start thinking about your style for the day

Are you simply going to be yourself, or do you fancy channelling your inner Greta Garbo?

This is your opportunity to go all out and emulate your revered heroine with a [vintage wedding style](#).

- Shop for bridesmaids dresses and look at suits for groomsmen

- Obtain menu options from caterers and start thinking about the options

Bear in mind the limitations of pregnant or vegetarian guests and, of course, those with allergies.

Notes...

Wedding Timeline: Three Months To Go

- Choose and order wedding cake
- Start shopping for bridal accessories (veil, tiara, jewellery, shoes, bag, underwear)
- Decide whether to use hair and make-up professionals
If so, schedule trials. For help making up your mind, read my post [here](#).
- Secure with deposit if required
- Select your ceremony music and provide the registrar with your option/s
Note if your wedding is non-religious, there are certain restrictions in place.
- Finalise readings and submit to registrar for approval
- Order/start hand-making favours
- Finalise menu and flowers
Don't forget to include your photographer in the final numbers if they have accepted a meal. And be sure to request breakfast as an additional option if you're getting ready at the venue ([here's why and how to get it right!](#)).
- Purchase rings
- Meet with the photographer
It's important that your photographer has a good idea of your expectations for the day, including any specific shots you require. It's also a good opportunity to offer the obligatory wedding breakfast meal.
- Send playlist to band/DJ
Do not underestimate how long it can take to put this together. (If you're as particular as my husband and me at any rate!)
- Research and book/provide info to guests for nearby hotels
It's a good idea to slip a printed sheet of these details inside your invites.
- Send invitations
This can also take longer than you may anticipate as you will need to acquire addresses. Once posted, it's imperative that you keep on top of the list of acceptances so that you can plan your tables in due course. And, of course, the numbers will also affect your budget.
- Plan hen/sten
Do not delay – pinning down a date is nigh on impossible. (I highly recommend delegating this job to your bridesmaids!)

Wedding Timeline: One Month To Go

- Give Notice

- Find a special gift for your hubby-to-be

- Write speeches

This may or may not apply to you (read [this](#) for help deciding!), but you may want to keep your finger on the pulse of your husband-to-be (point him [here](#) if he needs a hand)!

- Have final dress fitting

- Pay final instalments

- Chase RSVPs

- Begin writing wedding vows

- Begin assigning seating and making a table plan

My thoughts are with you for the duration of this loathsome task.

- Purchase wedding party gifts

Notes...

Wedding Timeline: Two Weeks To Go

- Finalise wedding vows
 - Have your future spouse's wedding gift engraved, if required
 - Complete table plan
- Good luck! You deserve a large glass of vino when you have this tied up!

- Arrange final visit to hairdresser
- Don't go for anything too drastic – just in case...

- Collect your dress

Eeeeeek!

- Finish any DIY projects
 - Burn your entrance and wedding breakfast music onto disc, and ensure it's working.
 - Book a massage/mani/pedi for the day before your wedding
- Go on – you totally deserve it!

Notes...

Wedding Timeline: The One Week Countdown

- Touch base with all suppliers and ensure deliveries of cake and flowers are arranged
- Delegate wedding party with tasks for the Big Day itself, and the following day
Such as ferrying the cake, entrance music, and table plan to the venue, and collecting accoutrements the next day/returning suits.
- Break in your shoes
- Pack for your honeymoon
- Make arrangements for airport run
Just make sure the person due to take you does not have a hangover rendering them incapable – not fun at the eleventh hour...

That's all folks! Good luck - and enjoy!

Notes...