

18-Month

Wedding Planning Timeline



18 Months

Once you have your budget established, the first thing on the agenda should be picking and booking your **venue**. This will help you **finalize your date** and may also give you some insight on the other vendors you'll want to use.

12 Months

Pretty shortly after you are engaged, you will want to do **engagement photos!** You want to get these done before you get too caught up in wedding planning. Many wedding photographers will include these in your wedding photography package or offer a discount if you plan on using them for your wedding day too!

9 Months

There are a couple more people you need to think about that I didn't include in the key vendor list that you'll want to start booking. Mainly your **officiant** (if you aren't using friends or family) and your **cake baker**.

If you are planning on doing something fun and extra like a professional **photo booth** or a **coffee cart**, you should start booking those now as well

6-9 Months

You've got all the vendors booked and now you've got to start to figure out exactly what you need to make your wedding day look like your vision. You'll probably be **renting** a bunch of stuff from tables and chairs, to silverware and plates. If you are renting big stuff like tents or generators, you'll want to make sure to book those on the earlier side.

If you are just using a **day-of coordinator**, you should start looking for one now!

6 Months

If you haven't already, now is the time to start your **gift registry!** People may start asking where you are registered shortly after receiving your save the dates.

3 Months

Think about whether you want to **book a hotel** room to get ready in or for your wedding night. You'll also want to figure out where you want to hold your **rehearsal dinner** and reserve that space (we plan rehearsal dinners too).

Another big item to check off your list is **transportation!** You want to make sure you and all your guests can get to and from your ceremony and wedding reception. Book any **shuttles** or car services for the day.

2 Weeks

All your wedding RSVPs should be in at this point, which will allow you to finalize your **seating chart** and put together any seating chart or escort card display.

5-7 Days

Typically 1 week before your wedding is when final **head counts** are due to the caterer.

In addition, now is also a great time to send your photographer a **shot list** and your DJ your **playlists**.

2 Days

Pack up everything you are bringing for your wedding day and make sure it is clearly labelled! Have a plan for who will be delivering it and setting it up!

Spend the rest of the day trying to relax and getting any **beauty treatments** (manicures, spray tans, etc.)

18 Months

Congratulations! You're engaged, first thing you'll want to do is sit down with anyone who will be contributing to your wedding and establish a **budget**.

You'll also want to have a general idea of your guest count, so you can pick an appropriately sized venue.

15 Months

If you are planning on utilizing a **wedding planner**, book them as soon as you can! The earlier you book them the more they can help you plan. (DFTC Events does weddings!)

9-12 Months

All the **vendors!** There isn't a specific order you need to book vendors. I recommend starting with your top priority and working down from there. So if you are dreaming of your wedding photographer, start with them, or if you know you want a killer DJ, book them now! **The key vendors in most weddings are caterer, florist, DJ, photographer, and videographer.**

Pick your wedding party! You and your fiancé should pick your bridesmaids and/or groomsmen for your day. These people can help you out as you plan your wedding and other pre-wedding festivities.

7-9 Months

Time for **wedding dress** shopping! You'll want to start shopping and have dress bought no later than 6 months before your wedding, so you have sufficient time for alterations.

6 Months

If you haven't already, finalize your **guest list**. Make sure to get input from your parents or anyone else who is contributing financially.

You should also order and send out your **save the dates** this month!

4 Months

Around 4 months out, you should pick out **bridesmaids dresses** and for the **tuxes for the groom and groomsmen**.

8-10 Weeks

Invitations should be sent out around 6-8 weeks before your wedding (sooner if most of your guests are traveling). Make sure they are ordered a couple weeks before that, so you can get everything together to send.

4 Weeks

Any other other papers you will be using for your wedding (i.e. **programs, menus, place cards**, etc.) should be ordered about a month out to make sure you give yourself enough time to get everything.

7-10 Days

Around 1 week from your wedding day, you should make sure to go get your **marriage license**. Some states do have a waiting period between when you pick it up and when you can actually get married, so make sure you leave enough time!

A week or two before your wedding day is also when you and your spouse should do **final fittings** on your wedding day attire.

3-5 Days

You (or your coordinator if you have one) should put together a **day-of timeline**, so you have an idea of the timing of your day. It's also a good idea to send this to people like your DJ and photographer, so they know what's up.

Run through your major vendors and confirm everything, so everyone is on the same page.

Day Before

Try to enjoy the day! Take care of any last minute details and then sign out of wedding planning mode. Provide anyone who may need it a contact number that is neither you nor your spouses' to call if they need anything over the next 24 hours.

Hold your **rehearsal** and rehearsal dinner and enjoy some time with your friends and family.

Happy Wedding Day!