



10-12 Weeks To Go...

ESTABLISH A BUDGET AND STICK TO IT. When you don't have much time, you need to figure out what your bottom line is—fast!
PUT TOGETHER YOUR GUEST LIST WITH THAT BUDGET IN MIND. Many guests may already have plans 3 months out, so don't stress about adding a few extra invitees.
FIND YOUR WEDDING STYLE. Picking a theme early on, or at least a color palette, can really help you nail down all of the other details.
FIND A VENUE AND RESERVE YOUR WEDDING DATE. Venues may be booked out so late in the game, so be open to looking at places you might not have originally considered.
SEND OUT SAVE THE DATES, LIKE NOW! If snail mail's too slow for your fast-approaching wedding, send out digital save the dates.
CREATE A WEDDING WEBSITE and keep it up-to-date as things fall into place.
FIND YOUR WEDDING ATTIRE. Head to a trunk show, sample sale, or even a larger box store to buy something off the rack. TIP: Plan for about 8 weeks of alteration time, if needed.
ARE YOU HAVING A WEDDING PARTY? If so, let them know and decide on their day-of attire ASAP. (Though forgoing bridesmaids or groomsmen could really help simplify plans)
HIRE A WEDDING PLANNER IF THINGS GET TOO OVERWHELMING. They're experts at making wedding miracles happen when the clock is ticking.





8-10 Weeks To Go...

FOCUS ON THE BIG-TICKET ITEMS YOU'VE IDENTIFIED AS PRIORITIES. Cut out most of the "extras" that no one but you will notice.
DECIDE WHAT YOU CAN REASONABLY DO YOURSELF—and where you can enlist the help of others. Strategically choose DIY projects and recruit the talents of friends and family.
ASSEMBLE YOUR VENDOR TEAM. Again, stay flexible because some may be unavailable with such short notice. We'd start with: Caterer · Photographer · Officiant.
GET YOUR HEALTH AND WELLNESS REGIMEN IN GEAR. A workout routine could be a major stress-reliever during this time.
ORDER YOUR WEDDING INVITES! You'll want to give friends and family as much notice as possible to make travel arrangements.
ARRANGE AND BOOK ANY NECESSARY DAY-OF TRANSPORTATION.
ARRANGE HOTEL ROOM BLOCKS for out-of-town guests and book your own suite for the wedding night.
START THINKING ABOUT YOUR HONEYMOON, if you're into that. Or take a Latermoon!





6-8 Weeks To Go...

FINALIZE VENDOR TEAM AND OTHER DAY-OF HELPERS. This may include your DJ or Musicians Florist Cake Maker.
REGISTER AND UPDATE YOUR WEDDING WEBSITE WITH THE REGISTRY LINK. Skip the stores and save time with an online registry.
BOOK THE REHEARSAL AND REHEARSAL DINNER LOCATION, or tap a grandparent with a really big backyard. Invite your immediate family, wedding party, and Officiant.
RESERVE ALL NECESSARY PARTY RENTALS AND LINENS, including an inclement weather backup, like a tent.
GET THOSE INVITES IN THE MAIL! PHEW.

4-5 Weeks To Go...

CHECK YOUR STATE'S REQUIREMENTS AND MAKE PLANS TO OBTAIN YOUR MAR- RIAGE LICENSE. Some states have waiting periods of up to several days.
PURCHASE WEDDING RINGS. They don't have to be expensive, either.
PURCHASE WEDDING FAVORS AND OTHER DAY-OF ACCESSORIES. This may include your guest book, toasting flutes, cake servers, unity candle, and all that good stuff.
IF YOU HAVE A WEDDING PARTY, GIVE THEM A NUDGE—make sure they've ordered all necessary attire. (And consider purchasing gifts to give them at the rehearsal dinner.)
START RESEARCHING NAME-CHANGE REQUIREMENTS. If that's your thing, of course.





2-3 Weeks To Go...

FINALIZE AND CONFIRM: WEDDING VOWS AND CEREMONY READINGS WITH YOUR OFFICIANT.
FINALIZE AND CONFIRM: WEDDING MENU AND FINAL HEAD COUNT WITH YOUR VENUE AND/OR CATERER.
FINALIZE AND CONFIRM: SHOT LIST WITH YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER AND/OR VIDEOGRAPHER.
FINALIZE AND CONFIRM: SONG LIST FOR CEREMONY, COCKTAIL HOUR AND RECEPTION WITH YOUR DJ AND/OR MUSICIANS.
FINALIZE AND CONFIRM: WEDDING NIGHT AND HONEYMOON ACCOMMODATIONS.
CREATE YOUR WEDDING-DAY TIMELINE and determine who's giving the toasts.
HAVE YOUR FINAL DRESS/SUIT FITTING. Bring your shoes and accessories for the full impact.
HUNT DOWN WHOEVER HASN'T RSVP'D YET. Le sigh.





1 Week To Go...

GIVE YOUR CATERER/VENUE THE FINAL GUEST COUNT AND DAY-OF TIMELINE.
ARRANGE SEATING AND CREATE THE SEATING CHART AND/OR PLACE CARDS, if necessary.
PICK UP YOUR GOWN OR SUIT if you don't already have it. Swoon.
CONFIRM ARRIVAL TIMES AND FINALIZE THE WEDDING TIMELINE with vendors and the wedding party.
PUT TOGETHER YOUR OWN WEDDING EMERGENCY KIT. You can never be too prepared!
PACK FOR THE WEDDING NIGHT AND YOUR HONEYMOON/MINIMOON, if you're going on one!

Last Minute Essentials...

FIGURE OUT TIPS AND FINAL PAYMENTS FOR VENDORS. Put them in clearly marked envelopes and give them to someone you trust to hand out over the course of the event.
ASSIGN SOMEONE TO PACK UP YOUR GIFTS / BELONGINGS AFTER THE RECEPTION. Don't forget the top tier of your cake!
ASSIGN SOMEONE TO RETURN ANY RENTAL ITEMS OR TUXEDOS THE DAY AFTER THE WEDDING, if needed.
MAKE SURE ALL WEDDING-DAY ITEMS ARE PACKED/LAID OUT AND READY TO GO. Don't forget the rings and marriage license!
TAKE DEEP BREATHS. Stop to appreciate your soon-to-be spouse because the day you've been waiting for is finally here.