

## 12-Month Wedding Planning Timeline & Actionable Steps

### 12 Months Before the Wedding:

#### 1. Set a Budget

- **Actionable Step:** Sit down with your partner, review your finances, and agree on a total wedding budget. Break down costs for venue, catering, photography, and other categories.
- **Tip:** Include a 5-10% buffer for unexpected expenses.

#### 2. Create a Guest List

- **Actionable Step:** Make a draft guest list with both families. Consider how the size of the wedding will impact your budget.
- **Tip:** Decide early whether you want an intimate or large wedding to help with venue selection.

### 10-11 Months Before the Wedding:

#### 3. Choose a Wedding Date

- **Actionable Step:** Review potential dates with your venue and family members. Consider holidays, weather, and guest availability. Choose a primary date and 1-2 backup options.

#### 4. Book Your Venue

- **Actionable Step:** Visit potential venues (in-person or virtually) and make sure they fit your budget and guest list. Once you find the perfect one, secure it with a deposit.
- **Tip:** Consider venues that offer package deals with catering, which can simplify planning.

### 9-10 Months Before the Wedding:

#### 5. Hire a Photographer & Videographer

- **Actionable Step:** Research wedding photographers and videographers whose style fits your vision. Book them early as popular vendors fill up fast.
- **Tip:** Browse wedding photographer portfolios on [savnandcoweddings.com](http://savnandcoweddings.com) for inspiration!

## 6. Send Save-the-Dates

- **Actionable Step:** Finalize your guest list and mail save-the-date cards. Include your wedding website (if applicable) for guests to stay informed.
- **Tip:** If having a destination wedding, send these even earlier (12+ months ahead).

## 7-8 Months Before the Wedding:

### 7. Hire Key Vendors

- **Actionable Step:** Book essential vendors such as caterers, florists, DJs/bands, and planners. Get written contracts with specific services and prices listed.
- **Tip:** Attend wedding expos or vendor showcases to meet multiple vendors in one place.

## 6 Months Before the Wedding:

### 8. Choose Wedding Attire

- **Actionable Step:** Start shopping for the wedding dress and groom's attire. Schedule fittings and alterations ahead of time for you and the bridal party.
- **Tip:** Factor in custom alterations and shipping time for dresses ordered online.

## 4-5 Months Before the Wedding:

### 9. Design & Send Invitations

- **Actionable Step:** Choose and design wedding invitations. Include RSVP instructions and a deadline (6-8 weeks before the wedding).
- **Tip:** Keep a consistent theme in mind to match your wedding style.

## 2-3 Months Before the Wedding:

### 10. Finalize Ceremony & Reception Details

- **Actionable Step:** Work with your vendors to finalize ceremony and reception timelines. Decide on music, speeches, and any special moments like cake cutting or first dances.
- **Tip:** Create a detailed schedule for the day and share it with your wedding coordinator or key contacts.

## **Pro Tip for the Final Month**

- **Confirm All Vendors:** Reach out to all vendors to confirm timing, delivery, and services.
- **Prepare Final Payments:** Organize and prepare any outstanding vendor payments to avoid last-minute stress.

This timeline outlines a clear path with monthly milestones to keep wedding planning organized and on track. Would you like to add any custom details for destination weddings or small intimate ceremonies?