



# Your Complete Nashville Wedding Planning Checklist

You just said "yes," and now the excitement of planning your dream celebration begins. Getting engaged is a thrilling milestone. However, the pressure to set a date and manage family expectations can quickly make the process feel overwhelming. Designing a bespoke wedding experience requires careful organization, especially when you want every detail to reflect your unique love story.

Having a clear roadmap is the secret to a stress-free planning journey. A comprehensive timeline helps you and your partner—along with any family members involved in the decisions—stay on track. From your initial budget meetings to the final vendor confirmations, this step-by-step checklist ensures no detail is overlooked as you plan your perfect Nashville wedding.

## Setting the Foundation (12 to 18 Months Out)

The first few months of your engagement are all about establishing the big picture. This phase sets the tone for your entire celebration.

- Send an [engagement announcement](#) to friends and family, or post one on social media.
- Insure your engagement ring.
- Begin considering your aesthetic.
- Determine your wedding budget.
- Consider your ideal time of year to get married.
- Get inspired. Browse wedding magazines, Weddings & Events by Raina's blogs, Instagram, and Pinterest.
- Start compiling a guest list.
- Browse venues (or book one!)
- Hire a wedding planner, if you choose to use one.

## Securing the Essentials (10 to 12 Months Out)

With a solid foundation in place, it is time to lock in the professionals who book up quickly.

- Reserve the ceremony and reception venues.
- Finalize your guest list and collect mailing addresses



- Create your wedding website
- Book your photographer and videographer.
- Take engagement photos.
- Plan an engagement party.
- Decide on a wedding hashtag and start a shared photo folder for guests to upload images.
- Start shopping for your and your partner's wedding dress/attire and accessories.
- Propose to your close ones to be part of your day.
- Begin to craft your perfect save the date.

## **Craft Your Unique Love Story (7 to 9 Months Out)**

Now you get to focus on the personalized details that make the day truly yours.

- Make your wedding registry and add it to your wedding website.
- Book hair and makeup artists.
- Select your wedding attendants' outfits.
- Book your cake designer.
- Order and send out save the dates.
- Book your florist.
- Book your caterer.
- Book a band, musicians, or a DJ for your ceremony and reception.
- Book a lighting company, if needed.
- Reserve hotel-room blocks for out-of-town guests.
- Book or ask someone to be your officiant.
- Plan any cultural or religious traditions you want to include in your ceremony or reception.
- Reserve rental equipment, such as tables, chairs, tents, linens, a dance floor, etc.



- Book your honeymoon or mini-moon.
- Begin looking at wedding invitation samples.

## **The Day Before Details (5 to 6 Months Out)**

Now you can begin to take care of the more immediate details for before the big day.

- Book a room for the wedding night (and the night before, if necessary).
- Choose male attendants' attire.
- Plan your wedding or bridal shower.
- Plan your bachelor or bachelorette party.
- Book your rehearsal dinner venue.
- Arrange transportation for your wedding guests.

## **Invites and Additional Details (3 to 4 Months Out)**

Mail your beautiful invitations and keep a close eye on the guest count. You will need these final numbers for your caterer and venue.

- Order and send out wedding invitations. Work with your Minted Wedding Concierge to find or customize your invitations or design an invitation from scratch.
- Decide on a dress code for your wedding guests.
- Send your bridal shower, bachelor party, and bachelorette party guest list to the host(s).
- Choose getting-ready outfits for the bridal party and groomsmen.
- Do a menu tasting and finalize the reception menu with your caterer.
- Do a cake tasting and order your cake.
- Choose the music for your ceremony and reception.
- Finalize readings for the ceremony.
- Purchase wedding rings.
- Create a guest list for the rehearsal dinner.



- Make a shot list for your photographer.
- Book your rehearsal dinner venue, if it's different from the wedding venue.
- Schedule hair and makeup trials.
- Enjoy your bridal or wedding shower!

## **Placing Orders & Scheduling Appointments (2 Months Out)**

As the big day approaches, your focus shifts to logistics and finalizing the timeline.

- Create a timeline of events for the day-of
- Make a floor plan for the ceremony and reception.
- Follow up on RSVPs.
- Update the details on your wedding website.
- Schedule a ceremony rehearsal time and rehearsal dinner.
- Order and send rehearsal dinner invitations.
- Repeat a hair or makeup trial if needed.
- Order table numbers, escort cards, and place cards.
- Discuss ceremony details with your officiant.
- Book any beauty or spa treatments for the weeks leading up to your wedding.
- Order ceremony programs, menus, and wedding signs.
- Begin writing your wedding vows.
- Select gifts for the wedding party and your parents.
- Order wedding favors.
- Have a final fitting and alterations with shoes and accessories.
- Order wedding thank you cards and write them as gifts arrive.
- Purchase a cake-cutting knife, guest book, flower basket, and ring bearer pillow.



- Enjoy your bachelorette/bachelor party!

## **Tying Up The Loose Ends (1 Month Out)**

Review all contracts and schedules. Your wedding planner will step in to handle the final vendor confirmations, ensuring everyone knows exactly where they need to be and when. This meticulous timeline management guarantees a smooth, enjoyable wedding day.

- Pay any remaining vendor balances in full.
- Organize table numbers, escort cards, and place cards.
- Notify the caterer of the final guest count.
- Order wedding favor tags and favor stickers.
- Obtain your marriage license and order additional certified copies.
- Send your wedding day timeline to your wedding party and vendors.
- Create a reception seating plan once you've received all your RSVPs.
- Walk around in your full wedding attire so you can get comfortable with the shoes, dress, veil, and other aspects of your outfit.
- Organize day-of catering for your wedding party.
- Hold any final meetings with vendors.

## **Putting on the Finishing Touches (2 Weeks Out)**

Your wedding day is nearly here. It starting to feel really real!

- Write toasts for the rehearsal dinner and wedding reception.
- Put together welcome bags for out-of-town guests.
- Confirm all vendors have received and understand the timeline.
- Put together thank-you gifts for your wedding parties.
- Confirm any final shot requests with your photographer.
- Get any last facials, massages, or other treatments.



- Make a hair and makeup schedule and distribute it to the wedding party.

## **It's Nearly Here! (1 Week Out)**

Start to get excited! Only seven more days to go!

- Finalize the seating plan.
- Assign specific responsibilities to the wedding party.
- Practice reading your wedding vows aloud.
- Pack for your honeymoon, if you're taking it directly after the wedding.
- Get your wedding emergency kit ready!
- Pack any decorations or items needed for the wedding day.

## **Those Final Details! (3 Days Out)**

Super excited! It's nearly here!! Don't forget to rest and relax.

- Put the finishing touches on any vows and speeches.
- Get manicures, pedicures, and spray tans, if you choose to.
- Prepare tip and payment envelopes for the officiant and vendors, and assign a wedding-party member or the wedding planner to distribute them.
- Take the time to relax and appreciate your engagement with your partner.

## **Time To Rehearse (Day and Night Before)**

- Host the rehearsal dinner.
- Bring welcome gifts to the hotel or wherever your guests are staying.
- Give rings and the marriage license to the best man.
- Run through the ceremony.
- Give gifts to wedding party members and parents.
- Go to sleep early (if you can!).



## **It's HERE!! (Day Of The Wedding)**

- Request specific support from your maid of honors, bridesmaids, and family members.
- Eat healthy and stay hydrated.
- Take a moment (or more) to yourself.
- You've checked every item off of your wedding to-do list. Relax, be present, and enjoy your wedding!

## **BONUS: POST-WEDDING CHECKLIST**

- Send thank-you notes (order early, but begin mailing them within weeks after).
- Settle outstanding vendor balances and tips.
- Share photos on social media and with guests.
- Return any rentals.
- Clean and preserve wedding attire.
- Review budget wrap-up and store receipts.
- Begin name-change paperwork (if applicable).