

Wedding Planning Timetable

Wedding Date: _____

At Least 1 Year

- Arrange for all parents to meet
- Work out budget & review with your parents, if they'll be paying for any part of the event
- Interview & hire a wedding consultant if you are using one
- Decide on style of wedding
- Decide who will officiate. Favorite Rabbis may book up as quickly as caterers and banquet halls. You will need to consult this person regarding many issues throughout your planning. When necessary, book the synagogue sanctuary or chapel
- Make preliminary guest list & estimate final party size
- Choose your wedding party & call them
- Set wedding date & time
- Pick a caterer, a ceremony & reception location (if there will be one, for the engagement party, rehearsal dinner, after-wedding breakfast). Send a deposit when necessary
- Book a block of rooms for out-of-town guests
- Interview & choose photographers, videographers, florists, musicians, calligraphers
- Make transportation reservations
- Make plans & shop for your honeymoon
- Shop for wedding gown.
- Send a "Save-the-Date" card to your "A" list guests

10 Months

- Choose a color theme
- Order wedding gown & accessories (have plenty of time if something should go wrong)
- Make up your final guest list
- Go House or Apartment-hunting with your fiancé. Narrow choices to a few

9 Months

- Decide what gifts you would like & register for gifts (china, flatware, etc.)
- Shop for & order invitations, announcements, programs & any other printed materials
- Have your engagement party. Start a "thank you list" & mail notes as soon as possible
- Have an engagement picture taken & submit to newspaper

- Create schematics for the processional, recessional, under the chuppah, reserved seating. Distribute them to participants
- If you are not having a wedding consultant, arrange for someone to be in charge of keeping everyone on schedule & coaching the processional
- Select guests for honors (e.g., toast, speech, blessing on bread & wine, one of the seven blessings, aliyah at the Ufruf.)

8 Months

- Discuss wedding attire with mothers of the bride & groom
- Order your accessory items & bridesmaid dresses
- Look at tuxedos

7 Months

- Decide on which ketubah text you want & order a ketubah. Hand decorated ketubot take the longest time to prepare.
- If you are buying a home, get serious about a contract. If you will be renting, place a deposit

6 Months

- Select guests wedding favors
- Order imprinted yarmulkes.
- Order wedding invitations, programs, & other stationery

5 Months

- Arrange for tuxedo rentals
- Book your honeymoon
- Included directions, as needed, in Save-the-date &/or invitations. Take a trial drive to double check distances & landmarks

4 Months

- Purchase wedding gifts (for attendants & fiancé)
- Finalize floral arrangements.
- Set hair, make-up, nail, & wax appointments
- Select a bakery for your wedding cake, as well as cakes for pre-wedding receptions & pastries for after-wedding brunch
- Begin to address invitations or take final guest list to your calligrapher
- Select wedding bands. Place an order
- Get change of address cards from post office & get them ready to mail
- Decide who will ride with whom & where people need to be when

Wedding Planning Timetable (continued)

- Prepare programs &/or a wedding booklet for the wedding & assign one to distribute them
- Have the groom select & order tuxedos for himself, his groomsmen & the dads. If people are in different locations, mail the measurements
- Order table cameras. Make or buy a receptacle for them. Assign someone the task of collecting the cameras

3 Months

- Final dress fittings for you & your bridesmaids
- Finalize cake arrangements
- Write your own vows
- Buy cake knife, toasting glasses, guest book & garter
- Pick out associated events clothing. Remember shoes (ballet slippers, sandals) for the reception
- Find a hairdresser & make a test run with your veil
- Send invitations (double check postage)(8-10 Weeks)

2 Months

- Get name-change forms for social security, driver's license, credit cards & bank. Review documents & make needed changes (e.g. insurance, lease, Health Care Proxy, Living Will, etc.)
- Get blood tests & marriage license
- Make hair & nails appointments very close to the wedding day
- Finalize menu with caterer
- Review your needs with your photographer & videographer. List your wedding party, a schedule of events, any toasts or speeches planned, & any special photos, memories or candid you want. It is best not to surprise these professionals
- Meet with your entertainment (music, etc.). A schedule of events, favorite tunes, style of music requested, plus a list of toasts, speeches, etc. will ensure that the MC & you coordinate
- Arrange the rehearsal dinner, as well as other wedding-day-connected parties

1 Month

- Make guest baskets & assign someone to distribute them
- Make sure all your groomsmen, ushers, ringbearer, & fathers have ordered tuxedos
- Send change-of-address forms to post office
- Reconfirm all reservations & accommodations
- Confirm honeymoon plans
- Start the seating plan for the reception

3 Weeks Before

- Call guests who have not responded

- Finalize reception seating arrangements
- Get your marriage license
- Prepare wedding announcement for the newspaper
- Pick up your wedding bands
- Fill out the table cards or give names to your calligrapher.
- Put fees & tips in envelopes (officiant, soloist, maitre d' etc.) & give it to someone you assign in making the payments
- Arrange with someone to bring items to the wedding venue, such as cake knife, toasting glasses, programs, yarmulkes, emergency kit for the bride, wedding license, ketubah, etc. & to take them home
- Arrange for someone to return rentals (tuxedos, chairs, etc.)
- Arrange for someone to take your bouquet & gown "home" put them in preservation
- Pay all synagogue fees

2 Weeks Before

- Call caterer with final total of guests
- Confirm directions, pickup & drop-off points with transportation service. Confirm all other professionals

1 Week

- Create a detailed schedule of your wedding day activities
- Get a manicure &/or pedicure &/or other beauty services.
- Pack for your honeymoon
- Confirm post-wedding brunch arrangements

1 Day

- Get a manicure
- Attend wedding rehearsal
- Pack wedding day emergency kit. (extra pantihose, safety pins, thread & needle, steamer, brush & make-up)
- Get a good night's sleep

Your Wedding Day

- Eat a good breakfast
- Have your make-up done
- Have your hair done
- Give yourself lots of ready-time
- Relax & have fun!

After Your Wedding Day

- Send thank-you's &/or send gifts to the special people who made your wedding "happen."
- Send wedding photo & announcement tonewspaper(s)