

12-Month Planning Countdown

THE PLANNING PROCESS DECODED

There's plenty to do before saying "I do." Our year-long breakdown will help keep you organized and sane throughout the whole process.



A TOUCH OF CLASS
Give yourself at least six months to choose your wedding bands and wedding day accessories. [Razny Jewelers, razny.com](http://RaznyJewelers.com)



THE BRIDAL LOOK

Experts recommend ordering your gown no later than six months before the wedding. Justin Alexander Signature, Eva's Bridal International and Eva's Bridals of Oak Lawn, evasonlagrange.com

12 Months

- ___ Choose the date and time for wedding and rehearsal.
- ___ Select ceremony and reception sites.
- ___ Create a wedding website and email account.
- ___ Decide on a general style or theme for the wedding.
- ___ Pick your colors.
- ___ As a couple, create your budget. Then discuss finances with any family or friends who are contributing.
- ___ Choose an officiant and meet with him or her to learn about any premarital requirements.
- ___ Plan the guest list to get a rough head count.
- ___ Choose your attendants.
- ___ Research honeymoon spots.
- ___ Interview wedding planners.
- ___ Shop for gown and accessories.
- ___ Purchase a gym membership or book a trainer to develop your perfect health plan.
- ___ Book the musicians for ceremony and reception.
- ___ Interview photographers, videographers, caterers, and florists.

Nine Months

- ___ Select dresses for bridal attendants.
- ___ Start shopping for men's wedding attire.
- ___ Decide on the caterer, photographer, and videographer.
- ___ Have engagement photos taken.
- ___ Book a florist and choose arrangements.
- ___ Register for gifts at bridal registries of choice.
- ___ Select transportation for ceremony and reception.
- ___ Select hair and makeup services.
- ___ Look for accommodations for out-of-town guests.
- ___ Announce the engagement in the local newspaper.

Six – Eight Months

- ___ Order dress and accessories. Schedule delivery date and initial fittings.
- ___ Help family members select coordinated outfits.
- ___ Reserve any rental equipment such as tables, chairs, and tent (if necessary).
- ___ Choose a baker, then order your wedding cake and groom's cake.
- ___ Enroll in dance lessons and plan your first dance together.
- ___ Select your wedding stationery, envelopes, and thank you cards.
- ___ Plan the rehearsal dinner.
- ___ Research marriage license requirements in the county where your ceremony will be held.
- ___ Choose favors, then order or begin to assemble them.
- ___ Confirm honeymoon plans and compile necessary documents, like passports, visas, etc.
- ___ Finalize guest list.
- ___ Mail save-the-date cards.
- ___ Schedule hair and makeup appointments and trials.



CREATIVE CAKES

Make sure to select your bakery about six to eight months in advance. SweetPea Cakes, sweetpeacakestudio.com



BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS
 Bouquets and boutonnieres and centerpieces – oh my! Meet with your florist nine months before the big day to design the flowers of your dreams.
VEIL Event Design,
 veileventdesign.com



INVITATIONS
 Select your stationery suite six to eight months before the wedding.
DBY invitations,
 dbyinvitations.com



Three – Four Months

- ___ Choose the ceremony music.
- ___ Discuss reception music with band or DJ.
- ___ Discuss menu details with caterer.
- ___ Confirm out-of-town guest accommodations.
- ___ Order wedding rings and arrange for engraving.
- ___ If interested, meet with a premarital counselor.
- ___ Plan meeting for prenuptial agreement.
- ___ Visit officiant and review vows, readings, and music.
- ___ Select and reserve men's attire.
- ___ Address invitations and announcements.
- ___ Purchase custom framing for invitations.

Two Months

- ___ Mail invitations.
- ___ Confirm ceremony details.
- ___ Finalize any rehearsal and rehearsal dinner plans. Make sure guests know the time and location.
- ___ Draw up a map to ceremony and reception sites.
- ___ Plan bachelor and bachelorette parties.

One Month

- ___ Obtain marriage license.
- ___ Pick up rings and check engraving.
- ___ Confirm details with the florist, caterer, entertainers, and officiant.
- ___ Notify the newspaper with wedding announcement and photograph.
- ___ Have your final dress fitting. Use this as a trial run with full hair, makeup, and accessories.
- ___ Buy gifts for attendants, flower girl, ring bearer, fiancé, parents, and anyone else who helped make the wedding extra special.
- ___ Arrange for facials and other beauty treatments.
- ___ Host bachelor and bachelorette parties.

One Week

- ___ Pick up dress or have it delivered.
- ___ Pack for honeymoon.
- ___ Confirm travel arrangements. If traveling abroad, purchase small amount of local currency.
- ___ Write toasts for rehearsal dinner and wedding reception.


- ___ Give assignments to wedding party members and remind them of rehearsal details.
- ___ Confirm transportation details.
- ___ Notify caterer of the final guest count.
- ___ Review timetables and details with vendors.

One Day

- ___ Give wedding announcements to an attendant to mail after the wedding.
- ___ Verify transportation to and from the wedding ceremony.
- ___ Deliver welcome bags to guest accommodations, if you have them.
- ___ Get a manicure and pedicure.
- ___ Attend ceremony rehearsal.
- ___ Hold rehearsal dinner and hand out special gifts to the wedding party.

- ___ Prepare tip envelopes and arrange for someone to distribute them the day of the wedding.

Wedding Day

- ___ Eat breakfast and remember to drink lots of water.
- ___ Arrange to get checked in and have luggage delivered to your hotel.
- ___ Get hair and makeup done.
- ___ Get dressed.
- ___ Switch your engagement ring to your right hand.
- ___ Relax and enjoy the day. 



MEN'S ACCESSORIES
 Complete your ensemble with the perfect tie, tie clip, and cufflinks,
The Tie Bar, thetiebar.com