

The Ultimate Planning Guide

SAVING YOUR SANITY, ONE LIST AT A TIME

PREMIER
BRIDE®

©2025 PREMIER BRIDE OF CENTRAL AND NORTHEAST WISCONSIN | PBNEWI.COM

LUSIA STUDIO

Wedding Timeline

Now that you've said "yes!" it's time to get organized! Use our checklist as a guideline to help you through the wedding planning process.

TWELVE MONTHS

- Choose the date & time
- Plan the budget
- Reserve ceremony site
- Start your guest list
- Hire a wedding consultant
- Meet with officiant to discuss premarital counseling
- Visit reception sites & reserve one
- Choose your attendants
- Shop for gown and arrange alterations

NINE MONTHS

- Order wedding dress, veil & accessories
- Take engagement pictures
- Select dress for bridal attendants
- Decide wedding style - formal, casual, etc.
- Interview & book photographer, videographer, caterer, & florist
- Discuss honeymoon plans (get passport if needed)
- Choose reception music
- Send Save-the-Date cards

SIX MONTHS

- Reserve rental equipment
- Choose your baker & order your wedding cake & groom's cake
- Finalize guest list
- Register for gifts
- Order invitations, stationery, & thank you cards
- Reserve accommodations for out-of-town guests
- Finalize honeymoon plans
- Choose favors

FOUR MONTHS

- Choose ceremony music
- Order men's formal wear
- Reserve rehearsal dinner location
- Book stylist or salon for bridal party hair, nails, & makeup
- Discuss menu with caterer
- Order wedding bands
- Meet with premarital counselor
- Purchase mothers' dresses

TWO MONTHS

- Address & mail invitations
- Plan hair & makeup trial
- Confirm ceremony details
- Arrange rehearsal dinner plans
- Complete proper documents for changing your name
- Confirm delivery date of gown
- Announce engagement in your local newspaper

ONE MONTH

- Obtain marriage license
- Arrange final gown fittings
- Buy gifts for the wedding party
- Make reservations for bridesmaids' luncheon
- Purchase wedding accessories (guest book, unity candle, cake knife)

TWO WEEKS

- Start reception seating chart & place cards
- Confirm rehearsal dinner plans
- Contact guests who didn't RSVP
- Break in wedding shoes
- Write rehearsal dinner & wedding toasts
- Meet with photographer & videographer & submit a list of must-take shots
- Confirm honeymoon plans

ONE WEEK

- Pick up your gown
- Pack for honeymoon
- Confirm transportation details
- Give caterer final head count
- Review timetables & details with vendors
- Put fees in wedding day envelopes

DAY BEFORE

- Deliver gift baskets to hotels
- Host bridesmaids' luncheon
- Have manicure and pedicure
- Attend ceremony rehearsal
- Hold rehearsal dinner & hand-out special gifts to wedding party
- Prepare tip envelopes & arrange for someone to distribute them

30 DAYS AFTER: UPDATING YOUR NAME

- Auto Registration
- Bank & Credit Card Accounts
- Car Insurance Policy
- Credit Reporting Agencies
- Deeds/Titles
- Driver's License
- Employee Records
- Investment Accounts
- Life Insurance Policy
- Medical/Dental Records
- Memberships
- Passport
- Post Office Records
- Social Security Records
- Stock Certificates
- Tax Agency Records
- Voter Registration Records
- Wills/Trusts



Important Checklists

Day of and other checklists are important to stay organized and help eliminate possible items you might forget.

WEDDING DAY CHECKLIST

- Something old, new, borrowed & blue
- Share contacts with key people
- Check tips /Cash, Debit or Credit Card
- Eat breakfast
- Arrange to get checked in & have luggage delivered to your hotel
- Get hair & makeup done
- Relax! You're getting married!!!

JUST IN CASE SEWING KIT

- Anti-Blister Spray
- Safety Pins
- Boutonniere Pins
- Super Glue
- Scissors
- Stain Remover
- Static Cling Spray
- Phone Charger
- Steamer

FOOD & BEVERAGE

- Water
- Drinking Straws
- Energy Drinks
- Protein Snacks
- Gum/Mints

FOR THE BRIDE

- Gown/headpiece/veil
- Lingerie
- Hosiery & Garter
- Shoes
- Jewelry & Accessories
- Wrap/Jacket
- Brush/Comb
- Lipstick/Gloss
- Hairspray
- Lotion
- Perfume
- Tweezers
- Earrings
- Nail File
- Double Stick Tape
- Bobby Pins
- Comfy Flats
- Curling/Flat Irons

FOR THE GROOM

- Formalwear
- Cufflinks
- Socks & Shoes
- Brush/Comb
- Lip Balm
- Hair Gel
- Lotion
- Cologne
- Nail Clipper
- Shoe Polish
- Save Gel/Razor
- After Shave
- Shoe Horn
- Extra Socks
- Gifts for Groomsmen
- Phone Charger

WEDDING DAY EMERGENCY KIT

- Phone numbers for wedding party, wedding coordinator & vendors
- Sewing kit (thread, needle, safety pins & scissors)
- Personal emergency kit (including Shout wipes, tampons, & a small snack)
- Skin care (cleansers, moisturizers & lotion)
- Hair care (hair dryer, curling iron, curlers, brush, comb, hair spray, hair gel, bobby pins, hair elastics, barrettes)
- Nail polish, nail file & polish remover (in shade worn & clear to stop runs in nylons)
- Makeup & makeup remover
- Double stick tape
- Extra pair of nylons
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, floss & mouthwash
- Steamer or iron
- Hand mirror, tweezers & small grooming scissors
- Tissues & disposable wipes
- Anti-cling spray
- Deodorant, perfume & baby powder
- Cotton balls, cotton swabs
- Headband or clips for pulling hair back while applying makeup
- Small hand towel
- Lint brush
- Breath mints
- Cash
- Checks
- Something old, new, borrowed & blue

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Pain Killers
- Antacids
- Band Aids
- Antacids
- Band Aids
- Eye Drops
- Allergy Meds
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Breath Mints
- Tissues
- Tampons/Pads
- Deodorant
- Q-Tips
- Hand sanitizer
- Dental Floss

HONEYMOON CHECKLIST

- Printed tickets and boarding passes or E-tickets
- Confirm flight number & departure/arrival times
- Cruise tickets (note cabin number & departure/arrival time)
- Resort/Hotel phone & confirmation number
- Passports/Visas
- Camera, SD cards & charger
- Credit cards
- Sewing kit
- Medicines/Prescriptions
- Extra contact lenses or glasses
- Toiletries
- Electrical plug adapters
- Hair dryer

don't
forget

- Rings & Marriage License
- Pay officiant & Vendors
- Ring Bearer Pillow
- Flower Girl Basket
- Wedding Programs
- Cake Knife & Server

- Toasting flutes
- Favors
- Guest Book & Pen
- Unity candle, kiddush cup, etc.
- Assign Person to collect Gifts

Cakes Planner

CAKE STYLE

Type of Cake

Flavor of Filling

Flavor of Icing

Date to Taste Samples

Description

CAKE ACCESSORIES

Cake Topper

Cake Flowers

Cake Decorations

Cake Stands

Cake Boxes

Cake Knife & Server

Cake Napkins

GROOM'S CAKE

Type of Cake

Cake Theme

Flavor of Filling

Flavor of Icing

Cake Decorations

Description

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Wedding Cake Location

Groom's Cake Location

Cake Table Decorations

Part to Save

Person Responsible for Cake Top, Knife, & Server

Person to Save & Freeze Cake

Catering Planner

TYPE

- Breakfast/Brunch
- Tea
- Lunch
- Cocktails
- Dinner
- Dessert

ALCOHOL

- Full Bar
- Beer & Wine
- Wine with Dinner
- Champagne Toast
- Specialty Cocktail

COURSES

- Hors d'oeuvres
- Appetizer
- Soup
- Salad
- Entree
- Dessert

SERVICE

- Cocktails
- Passed Hors d'oeuvres
- Hors d'oeuvre Tables
- Seated Meal
- Buffet

ENTRÉES

- Beef
- Chicken
- Pork
- Fish/Seafood
- Lamb
- Pasta

RENTAL ITEMS

- Tables
- Chairs & Chair Covers
- Linens
- China, Glassware, Silverware & Serving Dishes

SPECIAL

- Vegetarian
- Kosher
- Gluten Free
- Other

Flowers Planner

FLOWERS BY SEASON

SPRING

Cherry Blossom
Daffodil
Dogwood
Forsythia
Hellebore
Hyacinth
Lilac
Lily of the Valley
Muscari
Peony
Quince
Rose
Sweet Pea
Tulip
Viburnum

SUMMER

Anemone
Astilbe
Azalea
Calla Lily
Camellia
Cosmos
Daffodil
Dahlia
Daisy
Delphinium
French Tulip
Hollyhock
Hyacinth
Hydrangea
Jasmine
Lady's Mantle
Larkspur
Lilac
Lily of the Valley
Marigold
Mimosa
Pansy
Peony
Primrose
Ranunculus

FALL

Autumn Leaves
Celosia (cockscomb)

Chinese Lantern
Chrysanthemum
Crosnia
Dahlia
Hydrangea
Seasonal Berries
Statice
Sunflower
Yarrow

WINTER

Amaryllis
Anemone
Casablanca Lily
Evergreen
Forced Bulbs
Freesia
Gerber Daisy
Heather
Narcissus
Holly (ilex)
Paper-white
Poinsettia
Rose
Stephanot

YEAR 'ROUND

Baby's Breath
Calla Lily
Carnation
Cattleman
Chrysanthemum
Daisy
Freesia
Gardenia
Gerber Daisy
Gladiolus
Iris
Lily
Orchid
Protea
Ranunculus
Rose
September Aster
Snapdragon
Stephanotis
Tuberoses

DESCRIPTION OF WEDDING FLOWERS

HELPERS

Cake Cutting Attendant

Guest Book Attendant

Officiant

Soloists & Musicians

WEDDING PARTY

Bride's Bouquet

Bride's Toss Bouquet

Bride's Attendants'

Bouquets

Flower Girl's Headpiece / Basket

Groom's Boutonniere

Groom's Attendants'

Boutonniere

Ushers' Boutonniere

Ring Bearer's Boutonniere

Mothers' & Grandmothers' Corsages

Fathers' & Grandfathers' Boutonnieres

Other

Other

CEREMONY

Altar/Chuppah

Candles & Holders

Pew/Aisle Markers

Other

Other

RECEPTION

Entryway

Head Table Centerpiece

Parents' Table

Centerpieces

Guest Table Centerpieces

Reception Room Flowers

Cake & Cake Table

Champagne/Punch Table

Gift Table

Guest Book Table

Restroom

Other

Other

BOUTONNIERE | Single flower for men worn on lapel

CORSAGE | Single flower for women worn on wrist

CASCADE | Blossoms & greenery in teardrop shape

HAND TIED | Cut flowers tied with ribbon/fabric, carried

NOSEGAY | Single flower or small bouquet, carried

POMANDER | Round bouquet on cord usually for flower girls

SPRAY | Small bunch of gathered flowers, carried

TOSS BOUQUET | Bouquet thrown to the single ladies

Wedding Budget

CEREMONY

- \$ _____ Ceremony Site Fee
- \$ _____ Officiant
- \$ _____ Marriage License
- \$ _____ Candles/Candelabra

FAVORS & ACCESSORIES

- \$ _____ Cake Knife & Server
- \$ _____ Cake Top
- \$ _____ Favors
- \$ _____ Flower Girl's Basket
- \$ _____ Guest Book & Pen
- \$ _____ Ring Bearer's Pillow
- \$ _____ Toasting Glasses
- \$ _____ Unity Candle, Kiddish Cup
- \$ _____ Attendants Gifts

FLOWERS

- \$ _____ Bride's Bouquet
- \$ _____ Attendants' Bouquets & Boutonniere
- \$ _____ Groom's Boutonniere
- \$ _____ Ceremony Flowers
- \$ _____ Reception Flowers
- \$ _____ Decorations

GIFTS

- \$ _____ Maid/Matron of Honor
- \$ _____ Bridesmaids
- \$ _____ Best Man
- \$ _____ Groomsmen
- \$ _____ Ushers
- \$ _____ Child Attendants
- \$ _____ Bride & Groom
- \$ _____ Bride's Parents & Grandparents
- \$ _____ Groom's Parents & Grandparents
- \$ _____ Pre-Wedding Party Hosts
- \$ _____ Cake Cutting Attendant
- \$ _____ Soloist/Musicians
- \$ _____ Program Attendants
- \$ _____ Other

MUSIC

- \$ _____ Ceremony
- \$ _____ Reception

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- \$ _____ Wedding Coordinator
- \$ _____ Attendant Accommodations
- \$ _____ Bridesmaids' Dresses & Shoes
- \$ _____ Flower Girl's Dress
- \$ _____ Groomsmen's Formal Wear
- \$ _____ Ring Bearer's Attire
- \$ _____ Bridesmaid Luncheon
- \$ _____ Host & Hostess Gift
- \$ _____ Other

PHOTOGRAPHY

- \$ _____ Photographer Fees
- \$ _____ Engagement Session
- \$ _____ Proofs
- \$ _____ Wedding Album(s)
- \$ _____ Disk of Images

RECEPTION

- \$ _____ Reception Site Fees
- \$ _____ Food & Service
- \$ _____ Tax & Gratuity
- \$ _____ Beverage/Bar Fee
- \$ _____ Cake/Cake Cutting Fee
- \$ _____ Rental Items
- \$ _____ Other

RINGS

- \$ _____ Engagement
- \$ _____ Bride's Wedding Band
- \$ _____ Groom's Wedding Band

STATIONERY

- \$ _____ Save-the-Date Cards
- \$ _____ Invitations & Envelopes
- \$ _____ Calligrapher
- \$ _____ Postage
- \$ _____ Thank You Notes
- \$ _____ Ceremony Programs
- \$ _____ Placecards
- \$ _____ Other

TRANSPORTATION

- \$ _____ Wedding Party
- \$ _____ Guests
- \$ _____ Parking

VIDEOGRAPHY

- \$ _____ Videographer's Fee
- \$ _____ Wedding DVD
- \$ _____ Additional Copies
- \$ _____ Edited Highlights
- \$ _____ "Love Story" Production

WEDDING ATTIRE

FOR HER:

- \$ _____ Gown
- \$ _____ Alterations
- \$ _____ Headpiece / Veil
- \$ _____ Lingerie & Garter
- \$ _____ Shoes
- \$ _____ Jewelry & Accessories
- \$ _____ Hair, Makeup, Manicure
- \$ _____ Other

FOR HIM:

- \$ _____ Formal Wear
- \$ _____ Neckwear & Cufflinks
- \$ _____ Accessories
- \$ _____ Shoes
- \$ _____ Other

Sharing the Cost

Willingness and ability should always be taken into account when negotiating who pays for each expense. Use these traditional guidelines for some basic guidance, but don't be afraid to break the "rules!" Everyone should be comfortable with their share and nothing is ever set in stone.

BRIDE

- Groom's Wedding Ring
- Wedding Gift for Groom
- Gifts for Bridesmaids
- Gift for Parents
- Gowns for Bridesmaids (optional)
- Accommodations for Out-of-Town Attendants (optional)
- Informal Stationery

BRIDE'S FAMILY

- Engagement Party
- Bride's Wedding Attire
- Bride's Parents' Wedding Attire
- Wedding Gift for Newlyweds
- Invitations, Announcements, Thank You Notes, Postage
- Engagement & Wedding Photographs
- Wedding Ceremony Programs
- Wedding Reception
- Flowers for Ceremony & Reception
- Bridal Party Bouquets & Flowers for Flower Girl
- Transportation for Wedding Party to Ceremony & Reception
- Videographer
- Musicians/Vocalists
- Security & Insurance for Gifts
- Welcome Party for Out-of-Town Guests

GROOM

- Bride's Engagement & Wedding Ring
- Bride's Bouquet
- Mothers' Corsages
- Wedding Gift for Bride
- Gifts for Groomsmen & Ushers
- Gift for Parents (optional)
- Formal wear for Groomsmen (optional)
- Accommodations for Out-of-Town Attendants (optional)
- Marriage License
- Honeymoon
- Fee for Officiant

GROOM'S FAMILY

- Engagement Party (optional; following party by bride's parents)
- Groom's Wedding Attire
- Groom's Parents' Wedding Attire
- Wedding Gift for Newlyweds
- Rehearsal Dinner
- Shipment of Wedding Gifts to Couple's Home
- Welcome Party for Out-of-Town Guests (optional)

WEDDING PARTY

- Bridal Shower for Bride
- Bachelor(ette) Party
- Accommodations for Self
- Wedding Attire & Shoes

totals for budget

_____ Ceremony

_____ Favors & Accessories

_____ Flowers

_____ Gifts

_____ Music

_____ Photography

_____ Reception

_____ Rings

_____ Stationery

_____ Transportation

_____ Videography

_____ Wedding Attire

YOUR Registry Checklist



RISE & SHINE

- Sheet Set
- Duvet
- Comforter
- Pillows
- Mattress Pad



COOK A MEAL

- Saucepans
- Cookware
- Cutting Boards
- Mixing Bowls
- Knife Set



HONEYMOON

- Plane Tickets
- Hotel
- Luggage
- Rental Car
- Beach Towels
- Excursions



ENTERTAIN TOGETHER

- Flatware
- Cheese Plate
- Wine Glasses
- Whiskey Glasses
- Pitcher
- Salad Bowl
- Bar Tools



FRESHEN UP

- Towel Set
- Bathmat
- Shower Curtain
- Soap Dispenser
- Storage



ENTERTAINMENT & SOUND

- TV
- Sound Bar
- Security System
- Digital Camera
- Alexa



GET OUTSIDE

- Grill
- Patio Furniture
- Lawn Mower
- Leaf Blower



FLOWER POWER

- Planters
- Yard Items
- Hose
- Lawn Ornaments



WAKE UP

- Coffee Maker
- Toaster
- Blender
- French Press
- Waffle Maker



MAKE IT SPOTLESS

- Vacuum
- Broom
- Laundry Basket
- Iron / Board
- Mop



OFFICE TIME

- Desk
- Office Supplies
- File Cabinet
- Stand Up Desktop
- Paper Shredder



TOOL STUFF

- Toolbox
- Electric Drill
- Step Ladder
- Full size Ladder
- Saw
- Laser Level
- Stud Finder



DECORATE TOGETHER

- Picture Frames
- Throw Blankets
- Lamps
- Art
- Furniture



FOR FUN

- Board Games
- Camping Gear
- Fitness items
- Books
- Bikes



THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

- Hangers
- Kitchen Furniture
- Sports Items
- Yard Games