

Your Wedding Countdown

12 months to go

Agree your wedding date and budget and decide who is going to pay for what. For a religious ceremony agree the arrangements with your minister. For a civil ceremony contact the local register office. Book your reception venue, evening entertainment or better still enlist the expertise of a wedding coordinator. Arrange wedding insurance before paying any deposits and remember to confirm all bookings in writing

11 months to go

Choose your best man, bridesmaids, attendants and ushers. Finalise guest list and make a list of those to attend the ceremony, day and evening receptions. Book your photographer and videographer

10 months to go

Decide on colour schemes. Pre order your wedding cake

9 months to go

Choose your wedding dress and bridesmaids/ushers outfits. Decide on your style of flowers, book the florist and discuss arrangements for bouquets, button holes, displays and gifts. Discuss menus and drinks packages with the venue

8 months to go

Decide on the type of music and entertainment for your ceremony and reception and book musicians, band or DJ, church organist. Select hymns and decide on readings. Order any stationery - invitations, order of service, menus and name cards

7 months to go

Book the wedding transport to and from the ceremony and reception for the bridal party and guests

6 months to go

Choose the bride and grooms wedding rings. Make arrangements for any venue decoration. Decide and compile your wedding gift list. Finalise your wedding cake design and colours. Order the wedding favours. Arrange to meet with your hairdresser and book a make up artist

5 months to go

Ensure your passports are valid for your honeymoon. If you are changing your name allow enough time for passport renewal. Book the honeymoon, apply for any necessary visas and consult your doctor about any necessary vaccinations

4 months to go

Choose your going away outfits. Book an overnight stay in a hotel room/bridal suite. If you have a will get it updated and ensure it remains active after your marriage. Notify bank, doctor, DVLA and other relevant authorities that you are changing your name and the date it will take effect

3 months before

Send out the wedding invitations. Compile an Information Pack to send out to guests who accept your invitation (enclose gift list information and accommodation details)

Discuss and confirm your ceremony details with either the registrar or minister
Finalise 'Order of Service' and arrange to be printed. Arrange the marriage licence and/or arrange for the banns to be read

2 months ago

Best Man and Chief Bridesmaids to organise your hen and stag parties. Buy gifts for the bridesmaids/ushers and parents of the bride and groom. Confirm bookings and wedding arrangements with reception venue, photographer, hairdresser/makeup artist, florist, wedding transport, honeymoon and entertainment

As you receive acceptance from guests send out an information pack containing maps, directions to your wedding venues, local accommodation information, details of your gift list and other relevant information. Send out thank you cards as gifts arrive

1 month before

Book final hair appointments. Arrange for a final fitting of your wedding dress and other wedding party outfits. Contact guests who have not responded to your wedding invitation. Notify venue of final guest numbers and agree seating/table plan. Wedding speeches for groom, best man and father of the bride to be written. Arrange for a wedding rehearsal if required. Order foreign currency/travellers cheques. Enjoy your hen and stag night

7 days before

Have the final wedding ceremony rehearsal. Wear in your wedding shoes. Give your 'Order of Service' printed sheets to the minister. Give the rings to your best man as well as a list of all the wedding services involved in case they need to be contacted. Pack for your honeymoon

The Day before

Have the day off, relax and try and get an early night

The Day of the Wedding

Enjoy your special day

After your wedding

Send out final thank you letters for gifts