THE CHECKLIST

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Tell friends and family.

Set the date.

Choose the type of wedding you want (formal, semi-formal, informal; which season).

Set a wedding budget and decide who will be able to contribute and how much.

Hire a **wedding planner**, if desired. ***(Link to wedding planners category)***

Visit, choose and book your **ceremony and reception** sites. ***(Link to receptions category)***

Pick a **photographer** / **videographer.** ***(Link to photographer to photographers and link videographer to videographer)***

Have engagement photos taken.

Start shopping for your **wedding dress / wedding day attire**. ***(Link to wedding dress & attire category)***

Start working on your guest list.

Arrange for both sets of parents to get together.

Order yourself a **Minnesota Bride Wedding Box**! FUN! ***(Link to WEDDING BOX PAGE)* (New sentence) (this is only on MN Bride)**

Be on the look out for our magazine to arrive in your mailbox! ENJOY! **(New sentence)**

**+** Add an item

SECTION COMPLETE

9 TO 12 MONTHS BEFORE

Sign up for any pre-marital counseling or classes. ***(Link to ? category)***

Announce your engagement; submit to local newspapers.

Choose your wedding party members.

Arrange the first meeting with your **officiant, minister, priest or rabbi**. ***(Link to OFFICIANTS category)***

Throw an engagement party.

Gather wedding inspiration. Start a **Pinterest board**. Search magazines and websites for ideas. ***(Link to designated brands Pinterest - so if the bride is on MN Bride it would link to the MN Bride Pinterest Page)***

Begin adding the names of wedding professionals and their contact information into your **WEDDING PRO TEAM. (*Link to WEDDING PRO TEAM page category) (updated wording in that sentence to)***

**+** Add an item

SECTION COMPLETE

6 TO 9 MONTHS BEFORE

Select a **caterer & beverage services. *(Link to catering & bar services category)***

Choose your **wedding day cake or dessert**, schedule tastings. ***(Link to cake & desserts category) (updated wording in that link).***

Order your gown and schedule **alterations** (remember to bring your shoes). ***(Link to alterations category) (updated wording in that link).***

Shop for **bridesmaid dresses**. ***(Link to bridesmaid category) (updated wording in that link).***

Hire a **florist.** ***(Link to FLOWERS category)***

Book **DJ, musicians and/or band**. ***(Link to MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT category)***

Say Cheese! Choose a fun **photo booth** to entertain your wedding guests. (***Link to PHOTO BOOTHS category) (new sentence)***

Start researching **honeymoon spots**. ***(Link to TRAVEL & DESTINATION category)***

Finalize the guest list.

Book a stationer to begin designing your **wedding day invitations** (and calligrapher, if using one). ***(Link to INVITATIONS & SIGNAGE category) (updated wording in that sentence).***

Mail save-the-date cards.

Purchase your wedding day shoes, headpiece, **jewelry** and lingerie. ***(Link to JEWELRY & ACCESSORIES category) (updated wording in that sentence).***

Book **hair and makeup** for the big day. ***(Link to BEAUTY SERVICES category) (updated wording in that sentence).***

Reserve **decor and rentals** necessities. Book portable toilets for outdoor events, extra chairs, linens, lighting, décor and so on. ***(Link to DECOR & RENTALS category) (updated wording in that sentence)***

Start making a day-of timeline, determining what should happen when (speeches, first dance, etc.).

Book **accommodations** / a block of hotel rooms near the reception site for out-of-town guests. ***(Link to ACCOMMODATIONS category) (updated wording in that sentence)***

**Register** for gifts at two to three places. ***(Link to REGiSTRY SERVICES category)***

Hire **security** to keep your wedding day safe and happy. (***Link to SPECIALTY SERVICES category) (new sentence)***

Book a **pet attendant** if you are including your fur baby on the wedding day. ***Link to SPECIALTY SERVICES category) (new sentence)***

Start to keep track of favorite songs for ceremony, 1st dance, special dances and the dance party!

Create your wedding page for your guests. **Start here! (*Link to CREATE YOUR WEDDING PAGE category)***

**+** Add an item

SECTION COMPLETE

4 TO 6 MONTHS BEFORE

Order all **wedding stationery** (invitations, envelopes, thank-you notes) and work out pricing for programs, menus and place cards, which will be printed closer to the date. ***(Link to INVITATIONS & SIGNAGE category)***

Hire wedding-day **transportation. *(Link to TRANSPORTATION SERVICES category)***

Book flights and hotel reservations for your **honeymoon**. ***(Link to TRAVEL & DESTINATION category)***

Arrange the **rehearsal dinner**. ***(Link to REHEARSAL DINNERS category)***

Schedule any **beauty treatments** (brow-waxing, facials, teeth-whitening) that you’d like to have done before the wedding. ***(Link to HEALTH & WELLNESS category)***

Send a guest list to the host of your bridal shower.

Order passport, if necessary.

Purchase **wedding rings**; order engraving. ***(Link to JEWELRY & ACCESSORIES category)***

Remind mother and mother-in-law to start shopping for their dresses.

Order the suits for the **groom and groomsmen**. ***(Link to MENSWEAR category)***

**+** Add an item

SECTION COMPLETE

2 TO 4 MONTHS BEFORE

Meet with the **caterer** or facility manager to discuss menus, wine selections, serving style, etc. ***(Link to CATERING & BAR SERVICES category)***

Choose and order **wedding favors and welcome gifts**. ***(Link to FAVORS & GIFTS category) (updated wording in that sentence)***

Order the **wedding cake and/or dessert. *(Link to CAKES & DESSERTS category)***

Meet with your **officiant** to discuss your ceremony; invite loved ones to perform readings, if appropriate. ***(Link to OFFICIANTS category)***

Send your song list to your DJ or band leader. Include all special dances, schedule of speeches and your song requests/do-not-play list. **(NEW SENTENCE)**

Buy thank-you **gifts** for your attendants. ***(Link to FAVORS & GIFTS category)***

Confirm **accommodations** and group hotel rates for out-of-town guests. ***(Link to ACCOMMODATIONS category) (updated wording in that sentence)***

Book your **pre-wedding and wedding-night hotel**. ***(Link to ACCOMMODATIONS category)***

Finalize your **honeymoon plans**. ***(Link to TRAVEL & DESTINATION SERVICES category)***

Send invitations to the **calligrapher** if you’re using one. ***(Link to INVITATIONS & SIGNAGE category)***

Plan your bachelorette party with your attendants.

Attend your wedding showers (host will determine actual date). **(NEW SENTENCE)**

Send a day-of timeline to your wedding professionals so they’ll have ample time for tweaks and feedback. ***(updated wording in that sentence)***

Sign up for **dance lessons**, if desired. ***(Link to DANCE LESSONS category)***

**+** Add an item

SECTION COMPLETE

1 TO 2 MONTHS BEFORE

Mail invitations.

Do a hair and makeup run-through (with headpiece, if using).

Meet with the caterer to finalize a menu.

Send programs, menus and escort cards to the stationer to be printed (if not using a calligrapher).

Confirm attendants have their attire and alterations are complete. **(NEW SENTENCE)**

Choose ceremony readings and music. **(NEW SENTENCE)**

Send your wedding announcement to local newspapers, if desired.

Purchase gifts for parents attendants and each other. **(NEW SENTENCE)**

Buy a guest book, toasting flutes, cake server, unity candle and any other accessories. (**Move up the timeline - was in 1 week before. Please remove in 1 to 2 months before and place here instead. Please delete it in 1 week away)**

Write thank-you notes as you receive gifts. Maintain a list of all presents received and thank-yous written.

Mail the rehearsal dinner invitations, if applicable. **(Move up the timeline - was in 2 to 4 weeks before. Please remove in 2 to 4 weeks before and place here instead)**

**+** Add an item

SECTION COMPLETE

2 TO 4 WEEKS BEFORE

Plot the seating for the reception.

Give the caterer an updated and forecasted head count. **(NEW SENTENCE)**

Confirm times with all wedding professionals. ***(updated wording in that sentence)***

Have your final dress fitting.

Write your rehearsal dinner toast.

Compose your vows, if desired.

Visit the salon for one last cut and color.

Send escort cards and the seating chart to your calligrapher to fill in guests’ names and table numbers.

Enter RSVPs into a guest-list database, and call invitees who haven’t yet responded.

Get your marriage license. If you’re changing your name, order several extra copies.

If changing your name, make arrangements with Social Security, Department of Motor Vehicles, credit card companies and your bank.

**Stock the bar using your final head count as a guide. (DELETE SENTENCE)**

Send out as many final wedding professional payments as you can. (***updated wording in that sentence)***

Provide addresses and timeline for drivers of transport vehicles. (***updated wording in that sentence)***

Create a must-take “shot list” and discuss it with your photographer.

**+** Add an item

SECTION COMPLETE

1 WEEK BEFORE

Compile the fees that will be due on the wedding day.

Give the caterer a final head count.

Appoint a reliable person to transport the cake knife, toasting glasses, etc. to and from the reception site. (***updated wording in that sentence)***

Get final **beauty treatments** (facial, waxing, brow-shaping, etc.). ***(Link to BEAUTY SERVICES category)***

Print place cards and table numbers if needed. **(New sentence)**

Create a wedding professional list with contact information. Give copies to all your wedding professionals, especially your wedding ceremony ad reception site managers, as well as your person of honor, personal attendant and parents. **(New sentence)**

Male celebrants(s) gets his hair cut. **(New sentence)**

Pack for the honeymoon. Ask someone to bring your luggage to the reception if you’re leaving from there.

Give your honeymoon itinerary to a friend or family member in case of emergency.

Pick up your dress or make arrangements for it to be fetched or delivered. Please make sure gown (if applicable) pressed or steamed, if necessary. (***updated wording in that sentence)***

Determine wedding party positions and order of processional and recessional. Once completed share with wedding planner and officiant. **(New sentence)**

Arrange for the cake/dessert to be delivered to the reception venue.

Delegate small wedding-day tasks: someone to carry your things; someone to bustle your dress; someone to manage the gifts; someone to hand out tips; and so on.

Send a timeline to the wedding party, including every member’s contact information. (***updated wording in that sentence)***

Give place cards, table cards, menus and favors and any other items for table setting to either the wedding planner or the catering / reception manager. **(New sentence)**

Break in your shoes.

Assemble and distribute welcome gifts to out-of-town guests, if desired. (***updated wording in that sentence)***

Pick up wedding rings, check engravings and sizes.

Remind men to pick up formal wear and shoes, and check them for fit.

If you don’t have a personal attendant, ask a friend to help you get dressed on the big day.

Talk to head usher about any special seating arrangements.

Arrange for a light snack or lunch for the wedding party to eat while getting ready for the ceremony.

**+** Add an item

SECTION COMPLETE

LAST 24 HOURS

Help decorate the venue, if necessary.

Have a manicure, pedicure and any other last-minute pampering treatments.

Distribute thank-you gifts to the wedding party, special attendants and parents.

Rehears ceremony. Include wedding party, readers, ushers, immediate family and officiant. **(New sentence)**

Bring ceremony accessories to the site: unity candle, aisle runner, yarmulkes, and programs. **(New sentence)**

Organize for a note or gift to be delivered to your fiancé on the wedding day.

Write checks for any balances due and assign a reliable person to distribute. **(New sentence)**

Take a relaxing bath, go to bed early and start getting excited. You’re about to get married!

Bring reception accessories to the site if available; decor, place cards, table numbers, guest book, cake server and favors.

Pack your wedding night bag and make plans to have it delivered to your wedding night location. Assign a responsible person to make sure it gets delivered. **(New sentence)**

Prep your wedding day pursewith tissues, lip balm, mints, ID and credit card.

Pack an extra tote with refreshers for hair and makeup, perfume, deodorant, etc. Anything that will make sure your day is comfortable.

Attend and enjoy the ceremony rehearsal and dinner!.

Get your beauty sleep because you're getting married tomorrow!

**+** Add an item

WEDDING DAY! (New category!)

YOU ARE GETTING MARRIED TODAY!

Hug your loved ones tighter today!

Allow plenty of time to get ready.

Give gifts to parents, wedding party and each other.

Double check that your purse, pack tissues, lip balm, mints, ID and credit card.

Reliable person has your extra bag with refreshers for hair and makeup, perfume, deodorant, etc. Anything that will make sure your day is comfortable.

Give wedding bands to person of honor to hold during ceremony.

Enjoy all your favorite things today while getting ready! Latte, food, snacks, music playing in the background, etc.

Pinch yourself that it is your turn to get married!

Today will be perfect because you are marrying the love of your life. Just relax and enjoy!

Don’t forget to tag us today while your having the BEST DAY EVER! XOXO

AFTER THE WEDDING DAY!

YOU’RE MARRIED!

Write a review for your favorite **wedding professionals** on MNBride.com. That is the BIGGEST thank you to them. ***(Link to WEDDING PROFESSIONALS DIRECTORY)***

Receive your wedding day photos and create a custom thank you card.

Send out thank-you cards to all your wedding guests that you received gifts from.

Share your wedding day photos and video to all your friends and family. Don’t forget to tag your wonderful wedding professionals.

Have you bought your first **home** yet as a married couple? ***(Link to REALTORS category)***

Submit your wedding day to be published. **Start here! *(Link to SUBMIT YOUR WEDDING)***

**+** Add an item