

FREE

# THE 2026 WEDDING CHECKLIST

*Your 12-Month Step-by-Step Plan  
for a Stress-Free, Personal Wedding*

*A free gift from Stylicia*

[STYLICIA.COM](https://www.stylicia.com)

# How To Use This Checklist

*This is the same 12-month timeline our wedding planning guide is built on. Print it, save it to your phone, or pin it to your Pinterest board. Tackle one section at a time and trust the order – it's designed to save real money and keep your stress level low.*

## THE THREE RULES OF THIS CHECKLIST

01

### **Follow the order.**

Each task is placed in the month it makes the biggest financial and logistical impact. Skipping ahead usually costs more.

02

### **Don't aim for perfect.**

If you're behind, start where you are. The checklist works at 12 months, 9 months, or even 4 months out.

03

### **Make it yours.**

Skip what doesn't apply. A backyard wedding doesn't need a venue coordinator section. Cross out, add notes, customize freely.

#### PRO TIP

*Save this PDF on your phone for vendor meetings and venue tours.  
Pin it to your Pinterest wedding board so it's always one tap away.*

# 12+ MONTHS OUT

*Foundations: vision, budget, and the big decisions*

- Talk with your partner about wedding vision and feel

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- Decide on a guest count range (intimate / medium / large)

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- Set your total wedding budget together

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- Have the family money conversation (who contributes?)

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- Pick 3 possible wedding dates and 1 backup

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- Research average vendor costs in your area

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- Set up a dedicated wedding savings account

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- Start a Pinterest wedding board for inspiration

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- Decide: traditional ceremony or personality-first?

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- Discuss must-haves vs. nice-to-haves with partner

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## NOTES

# 9-11 MONTHS OUT

*Lock in venue, photographer, and the most-booked vendors*

- Tour 3-5 wedding venues in your budget range

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- Book your wedding venue (deposit usually due)

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- Lock in your photographer (books 12+ months ahead)

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- Book your videographer if you want one

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- Decide on save-the-dates and order them

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- Send save-the-dates to all guests

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- Hire a wedding planner OR day-of coordinator

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- Start dress / suit shopping (allow 6-8 months)

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- Book your officiant (especially if religious)

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- Decide on wedding party (bridesmaids, groomsmen)

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## NOTES

# 6-8 MONTHS OUT

*Style choices and the experience details*

- Choose and order your wedding dress / attire

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- Book your florist and finalize color palette

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- Book caterer (or finalize venue catering package)

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- Plan your reception layout (chef stations? lounge?)

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- Book entertainment (DJ or band)

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- Reserve hotel room blocks for out-of-town guests

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- Plan engagement photo session

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- Set up wedding website with travel info

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- Choose wedding rings

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- Begin honeymoon research and booking

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NOTES

# 3-5 MONTHS OUT

*The details that make the day flow*

- Order wedding invitations (send 6-8 weeks before)

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- Schedule cake tasting and book your baker

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- Book hair and makeup trial

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- Finalize ceremony script with officiant

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- Choose ceremony and reception music

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- Plan rehearsal dinner (book venue if separate)

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- Buy wedding party gifts

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- Apply for marriage license requirements info

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- Schedule dress fittings (3 fittings minimum)

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- Plan transportation for wedding party

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**NOTES**

# 1-2 MONTHS OUT

*Finalize, confirm, and breathe*

- Send wedding invitations

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- Apply for marriage license

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- Confirm all vendor bookings in writing

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- Create detailed wedding day timeline

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- Share timeline with vendors and wedding party

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- Final dress fitting

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- Plan seating chart (wait for RSVPs)

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- Write personal vows (if doing them)

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- Confirm guest count with caterer

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- Pick up rings and check engraving

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NOTES

# WEDDING WEEK

*Last details, then trust your plan*

- Final headcount to caterer (3-5 days before)

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- Pack overnight bag and wedding day items

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- Confirm transportation pickup times

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- Get marriage license to officiant

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- Drop off welcome bags at hotel(s)

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- Pre-wedding self-care: nails, hair trim, sleep

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- Tip envelopes prepped for wedding party member

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- Charge ALL devices and cameras

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- Eat real meals – don't skip breakfast on the day

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- Trust your plan and enjoy your wedding

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## NOTES

# You've Got This.

*Your 2026 wedding is going to be beautiful.*

## **WANT MORE?**

**Read the full guide  
with hidden costs, vendor booking order, and 2026 trends.**

**Follow on Pinterest  
by following @stylicia on Pinterest.**

**Stay in the loop  
delivered straight to your inbox.**

*Wishing you a wedding that feels like you.*

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