

We have compiled a wedding planning timeline and checklist to guide you along this wonderful journey. For more planning tips and other fun wedding details, please visit <u>Captivating Beauty</u>.



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FROM ENGAGEMENT UP TO 12 MONTHS BEFORE

Start a wedding folder or binder and keep track of

Look at bridal, fashion, lifestyle, design, and food magazines for inspiration. Tip: tear out things you like and place them in your wedding folder. You can also find a lot of inspiration on Pinterest, simply print and place in your folder as well.

Determine your <u>REAL</u> budget. Find out how much you truly have to spend (not what you'd like to spend) based on your families' contributions and your own. Tip: Most brides underestimate the cost of their wedding. Make sure you leave some wiggle room and expect things to cost more than you think.
Hire a wedding planner and decorator, if desired. Tip: Many brides wish they would have hired a wedding planner and a day-of wedding coordinator. A planner will have relationships and a lot of knowledge about vendors in your location. Captivating Beauty offers these services!
Start doing research on venues and vendors.
Start looking for your wedding dress.
Set your wedding date and book venue[s]. Tip: Venues book up extremely fast, and some are booked out 2-3 years. This should be the first step in being able to figure out the rest of your wedding details!



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- Decide on locations for the ceremony and the reception. Tip: If you decide on separate locations, don't forget to factor in travel time and possible extra costs.
- Determine your wedding party.
 - Start creating the guest list. Make an easy-to-edit spreadsheet with your list of guests. Tip: This will be used throughout your entire wedding process. We suggest creating columns for contact information, addresses, RSVP's, food selection/quantities, gifts received, and any other key information.

Book your officiant.
Book the photographer and the videographer. Tip: Make sure that the people you hire are open to doing the type of shots that you want. Share some of your tear sheets or Pinterest board photos that inspire you. This will help them to better see and understand you and your vision. Keep their contact information in your folder/binder.
Book hair and makeup artists. Tip: Captivating Beauty has an amazing team of skilled artists who travel onsite to your getting-ready location!
Book the florist.



CAMERON AND TIA PHOTOGRAPHY

Book the entertainment. Tip: If you can, check out any
possible musicians in person. This way you see
exactly how they perform in front of audiences. Write
down your favorite songs that they played!

Meet potential caterers. Tip: Many venues have their own catering service. If they don't, look for one now and hire asap.



Choose and order a wedding cake (donuts, cupcakes, whatever your heart desires). Tip: Captivating Beauty offers all of this and you can combine it with our ultimate package deal. We always recommend a few tasting before your wedding.



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Look at/purchase the rings. Tip: The earlier, the better, so you have time for resizing or engraving if necessary.
Purchase your wedding dress.
Purchase a veil or any accessories you may be wearing.
Find a seamstress/tailor. Tip: Schedule at least 2-3 fittings.
Set up and reserve a block of hotel rooms for out-of- town guests. Tip: Pick three hotels at different price points close to the reception venue.

Set up your Bridal Registry. Tip: Sign up at a minimum of two or three retailers. Even if you are asking for cash or doing a honeymoon fund, it's a good idea to have at least a few items you want/need for the guests who love giving traditional wedding gifts.
Launch a wedding website. Tip: theknot.com, weddingwire.com, or weddingchannel.com are all excellent. Make sure to include the date of the wedding, travel information, and accommodations. Send a link to all invitees and/or include it on your save the dates.
SEVEN TO SIX MONTHS BEFORE
Mail save-the-date cards.
Order your wedding cake/dessert.
Start planning a honeymoon. Start planning a honeymoon. Tip: Make sure your passports and any necessary travel vaccines are up to date.
Shop for bridesmaids' dresses. Tip: Allow several months for the dresses to be ordered and sized.

Meet with the officiant to plan your ceremony.
Select and purchase your wedding invitations and announcements.
Reserve structural and electrical necessities.
Reserve any rentals: archways, portable toilets for outdoor events, extra chairs, lighting, décor items, etc. Tip: Captivating Beauty has many of these items available!
Arrange transportation (for yourself, your bridal party, the groom and his groomsmen, plus anyone else that you might be helping with transportation on the day-of the wedding).



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FIVE TO FOUR MONTHS BEFORE

Book the rehearsal and rehearsal-dinner venues.
Negotiate the cost and the menu for rehearsal dinner.
Finalize honeymoon plans/details.
Start composing a day-of timeline.
Draw up a schedule of the event and slot in each aspect (the cake-cutting, the first dance, the toasts).
Send your guest list to the host of your shower.
Purchase wedding shoes and start dress fittings. Tip: Bring your shoes along to your first fitting so that the tailor can choose the appropriate length for your dress.
Work on your playlist. Tip: Determine what you want playing when the wedding party is announced, during the appetizers, and to kick off the dancing celebration. It's always good to keep a running list of what you want, and do not want, played.



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THREE MONTHS BEFORE

Finalize the flowers.
Finalize the menu.
Order favors, if applicable.
Schedule your hair/makeup trial run. Tip: Book your appointment for approximately one month before the wedding.
Determine what you would like to have read at your ceremony—and whom.
Make a list of the people you would like to give toasts, and ask them.
Finalize the day-of timeline for the ceremony and the reception.
Send your event schedule to the vendors. Tip: Giving them a first draft now allows ample time for changes and feedback.

Plan for a Bachelorette Party. Tip: This night out with your girlfriends generally falls to the Maid of Honor, but if she hasn't mentioned one to you by now, feel free to ask if a celebration is in the works!



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SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS OUT

Mail out the invitations. Tip: Have your RSVP cutoff date be 3 weeks prior to the ceremony.
Get your marriage license. Tip: Each state has different guidelines for marriage licenses. In Minnesota, you must get married within 6 months of receiving your license.
Make sure everything is in order with each of your vendors, and that all questions have been answered.
Contact your photographer to discuss specific shots/locations that you want on your wedding day.
Submit a newspaper wedding announcement, if applicable. Tip: If you're planning to include a photograph, check the newspapers websitesome have strict rules about how the photo should look and how your announcement should be submitted.
Book your spa treatment, manicure, eyelash extensions, etc. Tip: It's best to make an appointment for your manicure and pedicure for the day before the wedding.

Print menu cards and programs, if applicable.
Purchase bridesmaids' gifts.
FOUR WEEKS OUT
Send out final payments. Tip: Be sure you know when your final payments are due with each vendor. Most are due one month before the wedding.
Confirm times with all vendors.
Mail or E-mail the rehearsal-dinner invitations.
Write vows, if necessary.
Enter RSVPs into your guest-list database.
Call anyone who has not yet responded.
Send the final guest list to the caterer and all venues hosting your wedding events.
Finalize assigned seating, if applicable. Tip: Draw table shapes on a poster board and use sticky notes with people's names on them to move them around easily!

Stock the bar, if applicable.
Confirm final numbers for wedding desserts with your baker.
Review the playlist with the band or DJ.
Visit the seamstress/tailor for your final dress fitting.
Break in your shoes. Tip: Walk around in them a little bit over several days. If they need to stretch, wear them with socks.
Enjoy your Bachelorette Party!



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WEEK OF THE WEDDING

Reconfirm arrival times with all vendors, if you haven't already done so.
Pick up your dress/go to your final fitting, if you haven't already done so.
Delegate small wedding-day tasks. Tip: Choose someone to help you get your dress on, someone to carry your things, someone to be in charge of gifts, someone to hand out tips, and someone to be the point person for each vendor.
Send a timeline to the bridal party. Tip: Include every member's contact information, along with the point people you've asked to deal with the vendors if problems arise.
Set aside tips for your vendors in envelopes to be handed out at the event.
Pack for your honeymoon!



DAY BEFORE THE WEDDING

Get your manicure and pedicure.

Enjoy your wedding rehearsal and dinner party.

Get some sleep (try!)



CAMERON AND TIA PHOTOGRAPHY



JEFF DOSE PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography by

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