

# Complete Wedding Planning Guide & Checklist

Congratulations on your engagement! This is such an exciting time for you and your partner. Make the most of it and enjoy your wedding planning experience with The Dallas Oasis' Wedding Guide and Checklist.



#### **Engagement & Getting Started**

- ☐ If you haven't already, plan your engagement party to include:
  - Date:
  - Location:
  - Time:\_\_\_\_\_
  - Guests:
- Send invites to engagement party guests.
- Consider where you want your engagement photos taken and what you and your partner will wear.
- Book a photographer for your engagement photos.
- □ Schedule your engagement photos.
  - Date & Location:

- Consider where you want to get married.
- Simplify communication and create an email address specifically for the wedding that you and your partner both have access to.
- Start planning your budget. Create a document and update it throughout the planning process.
- □ Consider a wedding date, and have a couple of back-ups just in case the venue you decide on is booked out.
- Gather wedding inspiration. Follow
   <u>The Dallas Oasis</u> on Pinterest for more inspiration!



## 11-12+ Months To Wedding Day

#### Time to talk budget again.

<ul> <li>Start looking at venues and select your top 3. Tour those venues ASAP.</li> <li>We highly recommend <u>The Dallas</u> <u>Oasis</u></li> </ul>
2.         3.
<ul> <li>Book your venue. Don't wait on this!</li> <li>Some venues are booked out for over a year.</li> <li>Venue:</li> </ul>
• venue:
Choose your wedding party: maid (or man) of honor, bridesmaids, best man (or woman), groomsmen, flower girl(s), ushers, and ring bearer(s).
<ul> <li>If you're considering premarital counseling, get started.</li> <li>Start Date:</li> <li>Begin writing down your guest list.</li> </ul>

- ☐ Think about your wedding colors, ambiance, and dress code.
- Create a wedding website.
- □ Start researching wedding vendors to include:
  - Planner/Organizer: ٠
  - Officiant:
  - Hair Stylist:
  - Makeup Artist:
  - Photographer: \_\_\_\_\_ •
  - Videographer:
  - Caterer:
  - Wedding Cake Bakery:
  - Bartender(s):
  - Florist:
  - Musician/DJ:





- Once you have your engagement photos back from your photographer, choose your Save the Dates and get them ordered. You can also use PaperlessPost or GreenEnvelope to create digital Save the Dates
  - Date ordered/created:

- Get your engagement ring insured.
- Consider getting <u>wedding insurance</u>.
- □ Start browsing wedding dresses, veils, shoes, and more.
- □ Think about what you want your wedding party to wear — attire and all accessories. Get specific, or they WILL choose for you.
- □ Get engagement photos taken!

# 8-10 Months To Wedding Day

<ul> <li>Book your officiant.</li> <li>Finalize wedding guest list.</li> <li>Decide on wedding party attire and accessories.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>From beaches to the mountains, <u>these</u></li> <li><u>destinations</u> might be calling your</li> <li>name.</li> <li>Honeymoon destinations:</li> </ul>
Obtain wedding guest list addresses for invitations.	
Mail your Save the Dates. Or email them if you want to go paperless.	
Date mailed/emailed:	
Hire your wedding team.	
<ul> <li>Planner/Organizer:</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Find 3 hotels (at different price points) for your out-of-town guests that are c lose to your venue and wedding activ- ities.</li> <li>1.</li> </ul>
Videographer:	2.
Caterer:	3
<ul> <li>Wedding Cake Bakery:</li></ul>	<ul> <li>want for gifts and create your gift registry. Here are some online resources:</li> <li>For the visualizers: <u>Blueprint Registry</u></li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Purchase wedding dress and accessories.</li> <li>Date purchased:</li></ul>	<ul> <li>For maximum flexibility and cash value gifts: <u>SimpleRegistry</u></li> <li>For the tech-savvy couple: <u>Zola</u></li> </ul>

#### DALLAS OASIS

- Browse <u>wedding invitation</u> designs that match your wedding atmosphere. Request samples.
- Consider coordinating to match the wedding invitations, including programs, menu cards, thank you's, and favors.
- Start planning your honeymoon. <u>Luna</u>
   <u>Moons</u> can help you prepare.





#### 6-7 Months To Wedding Day

- Meet with officiant to discuss wedding day plans, vows, etc.
- Reserve any rentals: chairs, tables, linens, lighting, decor, etc.
- Meet with the caterer to discuss meals and desserts and schedule tastings.
  - Tasting Date:
- Meet with wedding cake bakery to discuss specifics and schedule tastings.
  - Tasting Date:
- □ Order all wedding attire and accessories.
- □ Order wedding invitations.
- □ Purchase wedding bands.
- □ Purchase wedding reception dress.
- Schedule Bachelor and Bachelorette

party for 1-4 months before the wedding. Include locations, invitees, and dates.

- Bachelor Party Date(s):
- Bachelorette Party Date(s):
- Send Bachelor and Bachelorette Party invitations.
- Order Thank You cards (for wedding shower, early wedding gifts, and wedding).
- Start browsing ideas for flower arrangements for: rehearsal dinner, wedding party, wedding ceremony, reception, etc.





#### 4-5 Months To Wedding Day

□ Schedule wedding and reception dress Request cocktail tasting with bartender(s). fittings. Tasting Date: \_\_\_\_ • Date: □ Plan welcome baskets for out-of-town Remind your wedding party to schedule guests. fittings for their attire. Consider gifts for attendants. Book honeymoon: flights, Prepare your song list (play/do not transportation, hotels, etc. play) for musicians/DJ. ☐ Ensure all documents are in order for ☐ Finalize wedding guest list. the honeymoon. Assemble rehearsal dinner guest list. Book suite for your wedding night. □ Book rehearsal dinner venue. □ Schedule the wedding shower anywhere □ Order rehearsal dinner invitations. from 2 weeks to 2 months before your □ Send wedding shower invitations. wedding. □ Plan post-wedding brunch: location, • Location/Date/Time: date, time, and invitees. □ Schedule transportation to and from □ Order wedding cake. post-wedding brunch. □ Order all flower arrangements.





#### 3 Months To Wedding Day

- ☐ Finalize honeymoon plans.
- Plan ceremony and reception seating arrangements.
- ☐ Schedule hair and makeup sessions with stylists.
  - Hair: \_\_\_\_
  - Makeup: \_\_\_\_\_
- Purchase guest book, toasting flutes, flower basket(s), and ring bearer pillow(s).
- ☐ Finalize guest speakers, readings, and music for the reception.

- ☐ Finalize reception menu with the caterer (appetizers, main meal, and desserts).
- ☐ Finalize drink menu with bartender(s).
- □ Order menu cards and wedding favors.
- Send rehearsal dinner invitations.
- ☐ Mail wedding invitations.
- □ Send post-wedding brunch invitations.
- Develop a system to organize RSVPs.





#### 2 Months To Wedding Day

- Begin writing wedding vows.
- Review ceremony details with the wedding officiant.
- Apply for your marriage license.
- ☐ Finalize all seating arrangements.
- ☐ Finalize playlists and relay information to musicians/DJ.
- ☐ Finalize fittings for wedding party, parents, and anyone else involved.
- Layout content and timeline for wedding day programs and send to officiant, wedding party, and vendors.
- Book spa treatments for you and your wedding party for the week before your wedding day.
  - Location/Date/Time:



- Send spa treatment information to the wedding party.
- Book manicures and pedicures for the bridal party on the day before the wedding.
- ☐ Book all wedding day transportation, and send directions and times.
- Order wedding day programs.
- Purchase or prepare your <u>wedding day</u> emergency kit.



#### 3-4 Weeks To Wedding Day

- Contact all vendors and wedding team to confirm locations, dates, and times.
- Confirm all honeymoon reservations.
- Gather all documents for the honeymoon.
- Confirm final plans with the wedding officiant.
- ☐ Final wedding dress fitting to include shoes, veil, and reception dress.
- ☐ Write thank-you notes for the bridal shower and early gifts.

- Look for places to board pets or pet sitters for the wedding and honeymoon.
- □ Look for house sitters for honeymoon.
- ☐ Follow up with guests who have not yet RSVP'd.
- Give final guest count to vendors.
- Update gift registry.
- Get a final haircut and color before the wedding day.





#### 2 Weeks To Wedding Day

- Delegate wedding day duties: gift table, guestbook, decorations, set-up, teardown, etc.
  - Need extra hands? <u>TaskRabbit</u> can help.
- Delegate someone to return any rentals.
- Delegate someone to send wedding dress to preservationist or cleaners.
- Confirm wedding day transportation.
- Confirm post-wedding brunch transportation.

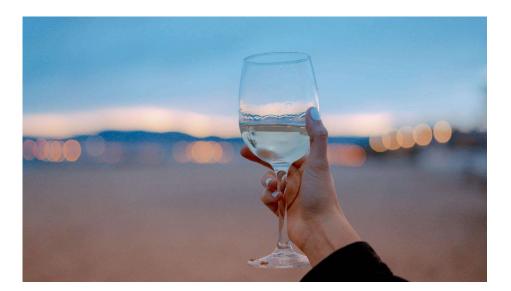
- Confirm transportation to the airport for the honeymoon.
- Plan wedding day breakfast, snacks, and drinks.
- □ Start breaking in wedding shoes.
- □ Pack for honeymoon.
- ☐ All wedding party men get final hair trims.



#### 1 Week To Wedding Day

- Get spa treatments for you and your wedding party.
- ☐ Organize all wedding day decorations, favors, programs, etc.
- Prepare final payments for vendors and cash tips.
- Delegate someone to take decorations you want to keep and all extra wedding favors.
- Give readers their scripts.

- Contact wedding photographer and videographer and give image and video requests.
- Look through your wedding day emergency kit and make sure you have what you need.
- □ Pack for the wedding night.
- Deliver welcome baskets to out-oftown guests.
- Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate for glowing wedding-day skin.







### The Day Before

- Get mani and pedi treatments for the bridal party.
- ☐ Steam all dresses for you and the bridal party.
- ☐ Make sure all suits are ironed and shoes polished.

- □ Set up any decorations you can.
- Attend wedding rehearsal and rehearsal dinner.
- □ Go to bed at a decent hour!





### Wedding Day

- Eat a good breakfast.
- Give yourself plenty of time to get ready.
- Get hair and makeup done.
- ☐ Get bridal suite photos and video.
- Get groom suite photos and video.

- Eat snacks.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Take it all in. Enjoy this start to your journey through life together as a married couple.







### **Day After Wedding Day**

- Attend post-wedding brunch.
- Ensure that any rentals are returned.
- Ensure wedding vendors have been paid and tipped.
- ☐ Freeze your wedding cake.
- □ Prepare for your honeymoon!





#### And Beyond...

- Send Thank You cards for all wedding gifts.
- Send your in-laws and parents a personalized gift.
- Leave hotel and transportation reviews.
- Send venue and vendors testimonials and post reviews.
- Send your venue wedding photos to post on their site.
- Ask guests to leave reviews, as well.

- □ Look back at your gift registry and get what you need that wasn't gifted.
- Send a card with a photo from your wedding and short note (can be as simple as, "Thank You! Love, the newlyweds") to all wedding guests.
- ☐ If you are changing your last name, do it sooner rather than later.
  - Change your name on all accounts: social security card, driver's license, passport, credit cards, bank accounts, emails, etc.



Secrets for a Happy Marriage