



A R K A N S A S
BRIDE

Wedding Planning Checklist

IMMEDIATELY AFTER GETTING ENGAGED

- Announce your engagement on social media.
- Have the money talk with your fiancé, your parents and the groom's parents to determine who plans to contribute to the budget.
- Get inspired. Start collecting bridal magazines, pinning on Pinterest and perusing ArkansasBride.com.
- Create a wedding binder or buy a wedding organizer.
- Print these helpful tools:
 - Wedding Planning Checklist*
 - Wedding Budget Spreadsheet*
 - Gown Buying Guide*
 - Wedding Day Timeline & Checklist*
 - Bridal Registry Checklist*
- Insure your engagement ring.

15 MONTHS+

- Fill out a budget.
- Compile a guest list draft. *You can't book a venue if you don't have an estimate number of guests in mind.*
- Tour potential wedding venues.
- Interview prospective photographers.
- Meet with wedding planners and event designers.
- Start choosing your wedding party.
- Have you insured your ring, yet?

12 MONTHS

- Finalize your budget.
- Work on the guest list.
- Hire a wedding planner or designer.
- Decide on a venue.
- Book your photographer.
- Start looking for a wedding gown.
- Formally ask your wedding party to take part.
- Schedule engagement photography.
- Begin a fitness regimen.
- Schedule regular beauty treatments: facials, massages, Botox, etc.

11 MONTHS

- Secure your venues with deposits, if you haven't already.
- Take engagement photos.
- Determine your wedding style: choose your colors and/or theme.
- Stay organized with our wedding worksheets.
- Find out about trunk shows and sample sales at local bridal boutiques.



A R K A N S A S BRIDE *Wedding Planning Checklist*

10 MONTHS

- Build a wedding website.
- Attend a bridal fair or event.
- Continue wedding dress shopping.
- Research hotels for out-of-town guests.
- Hire an officiant.
- Get caterer quotes and begin tastings.
- Research bakeries; schedule 1-3 cake tastings.

6-9 MONTHS

- Order your wedding dress.
- Book a caterer.
- Order wedding cakes.
- Hire a florist.
- Book the videographer.
- Reserve the DJ or band for your reception.
- Secure ceremony musicians.
- Research honeymoon destinations.
- Shop for wedding bands. *Order custom bands now.*
- Send save-the-dates.
- Reserve a block of rooms for guests.

4-5 MONTHS

- Register for wedding gifts.
- Order your wedding invitations.
- Book honeymoon plans.
- Make sure plans are underway for the rehearsal dinner.
- Draft a rehearsal dinner guest list.
- Buy wedding bands.
- Shop for wedding party thank you gifts.
- Pick out wedding shoes, veil, headpiece, garter and any other accessories you might need.
- Research transportation for the wedding day.

3 MONTHS

- Order custom thank you notes.
- Book bridal beauty treatments. *Schedule these a safe distance from the big day in case of unexpected reactions.*
- Finalize menu with caterer.
- Order beer, wine and/or liquor now to ensure you get the best price. *Discuss your needs with a liquor store manager for bulk discounts and deals on certain brands.*
- Buy wedding favors.
- Add items to your wedding registry, if incomplete.
- Begin gown fittings and alterations. Your gown should arrive this month. *Bring your shoes and accessories.*
- Book transportation services.

2 MONTHS

- Mail the wedding invitations.
- Check in with all wedding vendors to confirm dates, plans and ask questions.
- Create a photo checklist or review the list provided by your photographer. *Discuss your wishes with the photographer.*
- Do a hair and makeup run-through.
- Take your bridal portraits.
- Order all programs, menus, place cards, table numbers, etc. for the reception.
- Marriage license can now be obtained. *Remember, it's only valid for 60 days.*
- Be sure your wedding website is up-to-date.
- Continue gown fittings.
- Buy your outfit for the rehearsal dinner.



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1 MONTH

- Enjoy your bridal shower(s) and bachelorette party.
- Have a final meeting or phone call with photographer.
- Now's a good time to check in with your wedding planner and/or day-of coordinator.
- Schedule a final walk-through at your venue(s).
- Print programs, menus, place cards, table numbers, etc.
- Get your marriage license, if you haven't already.

2 WEEKS OUT

- Call and confirm any unconfirmed guests (optional).
- Give final headcount to the caterer and bar service providers.
- Provide final headcount to reception venue.
- Confirm rehearsal and rehearsal dinner plans.
- Do you have the marriage license yet?
- Finalize ceremony readings and vows with officiant.
- Write and mail any bridal shower thank you notes left to send.

WEEK OF

- Email a rehearsal schedule to those obligated to attend.
- Email a wedding day timeline to the wedding party, house party and close family.
- Be sure your wedding website is updated for guest.
- Begin to relax.
- Host a bridesmaids luncheon (the weekend before or a few days before the wedding) to thank your bridal party; present thank you gifts at this time.
- Designate a point person for the wedding day to answer vendor and guest questions, troubleshoot issues that may arise and pay gratuities. *Be sure to tell your vendors, family, wedding party and out-of-town guests who this point person will be.*

DAY OF

- Download our *Wedding Day Timeline & Checklist* for a complete guide to your big day!

2 WEEKS LATER

- Preserve your wedding gown.
- Return duplicate or unwanted wedding gifts.
- Send thank you notes.
- Make sure all vendor balances are paid in full, and all gratuities have been shared.

Notes