

THE BRIDE MANUAL

A Comprehensive Guide for the Bride-to-be



LET'S US HELP YOU!!

The Bride Manual provides helpful tips and advice on how to plan the perfect wedding. From selecting the right photographer, to common pitfalls, to how to pick a wedding gown for your body shape. This guide makes wedding planning easier than ever before! With our guide you'll essentially have everything you need to make your special day memorable.



GUIDE OVERVIEW

- 1. Top 5 Questions For Your Photographer**
- 2. The Wedding Package Breakdown**
- 3. Wedding Coordinator or Wedding Planner?**
- 4. Top 10 Pitfalls of Planning A Wedding**
- 5. The Ideal Timeline**
- 6. How to Pick A Dress For Your Body Shape**





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BY FLIKK THORNTON PHOTOGRAPHY

TOP 5

QUESTIONS FOR YOUR WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER

+The Wedding Package Breakdown

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There is no better way to relive your wedding day than through photos of your special day. Hence, choosing the right photographer is crucial.

Although the process can be overwhelming, you could make it easier by asking the right questions to narrow down your potential photographer options.



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1. Do you have insurance?

Yes, this is a real question to ask. Hiring a wedding photographer without liability insurance can turn into an unpleasant situation. Say, for example, one of your wedding guests bumps into the tripod, topples the camera, and it smashes the camera into the floor. Who's liable to pay for the damages? You, the venue, the guest, or the photographer?



However, with insurance, should the photographer damage his equipment during the wedding, provided it is covered by insurance, you don't have to worry about liability concerns. In fact, many venues will require all your vendors have a general liability insurance policy.



2. What style do you specialize in?

Photographers specialize in different photography styles. Is their style gloomy and dramatic, light and airy, bright and colorful?, etc. Some photographers produce work highly reliant on photoshop while adding cool elements to the images. Meanwhile, other photographers are more focused natural and candid moments.



You should be able to determine their style from their portfolios or website. However, if they feature different styles on their website, be sure to discuss the style you prefer. It will also help to know if the photographer will be shooting film, digital, or both. The idea behind the question of specialization is to align your expectations with the final result.



3. Is there a backup plan for emergencies?

Nobody expects an emergency; however, planning for one goes a long way. Although it is unlikely that your photographer would fall ill, or have a scheduling conflict on your wedding day, a replacement photographer would be handy in such situations.



Most experienced photographers have an emergency backup who is another skilled and trusted photographer. So, in case they are unable to make it to your wedding, you will nonetheless have a seasoned professional to capture your wedding day.



4. How long do I have to wait for my photos?

Shortly after the wedding your photographer moves into her post-processing workflow to edit hundreds, or even thousands of photos from your wedding day. As a result, it can take weeks to compile and edit the best photos.



Ask how long editing will take, and even whether you could have a sneak peek of selected images before the final delivery. It's also helpful to ask how you will receive your photos, via digital download, usb, prints etc.



5. Do you have a contract?

Arrangements are void in the absence of a contractual agreement. A signed contract is an excellent way to protect yourself and your photographer from unintended results. The contract should contain details of the services to be provided, termination terms, pricing, and other relevant information. Ask for clarification on any unclear terms and please feel comfortable requesting a revised version. Also, be sure to request a copy of the agreement for your own protection.



The Wedding Package Breakdown



- 01 Hours of Service
- 02 Number of Photographers
- 03 The Wedding Album
- 04 Overtime Rate
- 05 Prints vs Digital Negatives



01 Hours of Service

Some photographers have anywhere from 5hr packages to “all day” packages. If you have plans to visit multiple locations for photos, it’s important to know the number of hours included in the package.



02 Number of Photographers

Depending on the size of your guest list, and how complex your wedding is, you may want two photographers, or even three. The benefit of two photographers is that they’ll be able to capture multiple angles at the same time. For instance, the primary photographer may be photographing the bride walking down the aisle, while the second photographer catches the emotions of the groom or the parents.



03 The Wedding Album

i. Some packages include a wedding album, although rare. If not, then you'll want to know upfront how much the wedding album will cost you. Albums can range from \$500-\$1500 and possibly more.



ii. Additionally, you'll want to know if there are any stipulations to receiving your album, such as being required to purchase a print package before you can receive your album.

iii. Next, you'll want to know how many pages are in the album, album cover options (leather, linen, etc.), and lastly, how the album process works. It's important to know who selects the images for the album and what the approval and revision process is like. For instance, is there is a cost per revision, and if you will be able to give the final approval before the album goes into production.



04 Overtime Rate

i. Sometimes weddings go over time. It's a long day with many factors that sometimes are out of your control. So upfront you'll want to know the hourly rate for overtime.

ii. Next, you want to know when that hourly rate goes into effect. For example, if you're 5 minutes over, does that mean you're paying for an extra hour? Or is there a grace period before that overtime hourly rate goes into effect.





05 Prints vs Digital Negatives

i. Photography has changed. Everything is digital nowadays and the average consumer can print their own images via numerous online service providers. However, some wedding photographers may still operate in an old school format, which is print based. What this means is that some wedding photographers still want their clients to purchase prints directly, and solely, from them.



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WEDDING COORDINATOR OR WEDDING PLANNER?

What's The Difference?



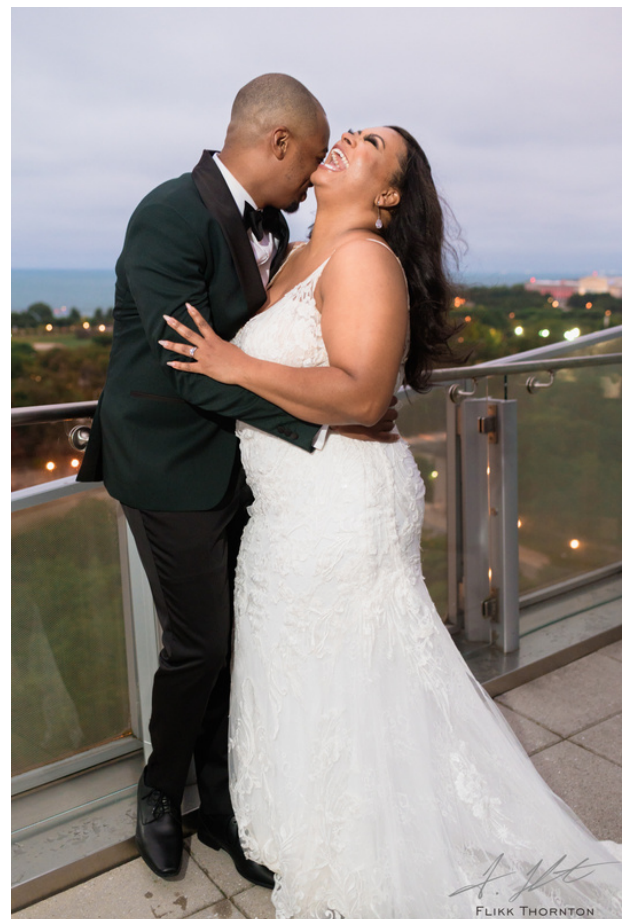
The duties and responsibilities of a wedding coordinator versus a wedding planner can be confusing for many couples in the midst of planning their special day. It's important to understand that while the two roles are different, each is equally essential to ensure your big day goes off without a hitch!



On your wedding day, this person will manage all vendors, coordinate with bridal party members, and handle any unexpected issues or changes in plans with poise. An experienced coordinator will also have knowledge in decorating and design, creating a beautiful atmosphere for the occasion.



A wedding coordinator is the person who takes charge on the actual day of the wedding, making sure that all aspects run smoothly. From overseeing vendors and ensuring timelines are met, to troubleshooting any last minute issues that might arise, they are there to make sure things go as planned. They will often arrive several hours before the ceremony begins and may even be one of your first vendors on site.

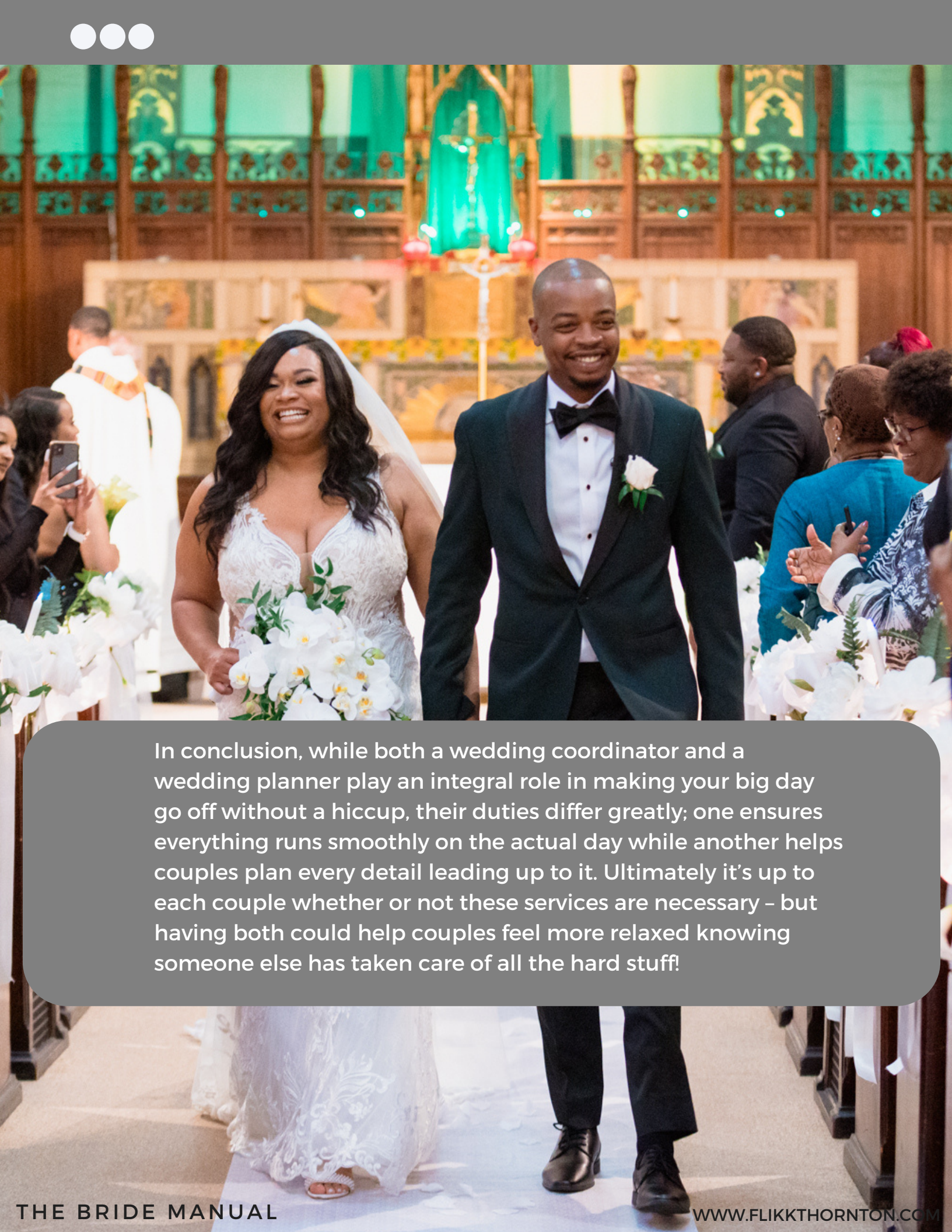




On the other hand, a wedding planner is charged with helping you plan every detail leading up to your special day. This individual helps couple narrow down venues and vendors, create budgets and timelines for tasks, organize guest lists and seating arrangements as well as helping you think through all logistical details.



Wedding planners are often hired months or even years in advance of an event as they may help you find venues and vendors who fit within your budget parameters and aesthetic vision. They can also provide creative ideas for decorations and activities to make sure your celebration is unique to you!



In conclusion, while both a wedding coordinator and a wedding planner play an integral role in making your big day go off without a hiccup, their duties differ greatly; one ensures everything runs smoothly on the actual day while another helps couples plan every detail leading up to it. Ultimately it's up to each couple whether or not these services are necessary – but having both could help couples feel more relaxed knowing someone else has taken care of all the hard stuff!



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TOP 10 PITFALLS OF PLANNING A WEDDING

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01 Setting an Unrealistic Budget

02 Not Researching Vendors

03 Not Allowing Enough Time

04 Not Taking Advantage Of Technology

05 Forgetting The Little Details

06 Failing To Consider Guests' Needs & Wishes

07 Not Having A Backup Plan For Weather Conditions

08 Not Hiring A Day-Of Coordinator

09 Not Taking Time To Enjoy Wedding Planning Together

10 Trying To Please Everyone



Setting an Unrealistic Budget

A common mistake couples make is setting an unrealistic budget. They don't realize just how expensive weddings can be and end up draining their bank accounts for things they may not need. It's important to set a realistic budget and stick to it. Look at all your options and try to find ways you can save money without sacrificing quality.

Not Researching Vendors

Oftentimes couples will choose vendors based on hype or emotion rather than research or past experience. This could leave you with poor services or products that don't meet your expectations or standards, so it's important to do thorough research before signing any contracts with vendors. Make sure you're getting exactly what you want at the right price point before making any commitments.



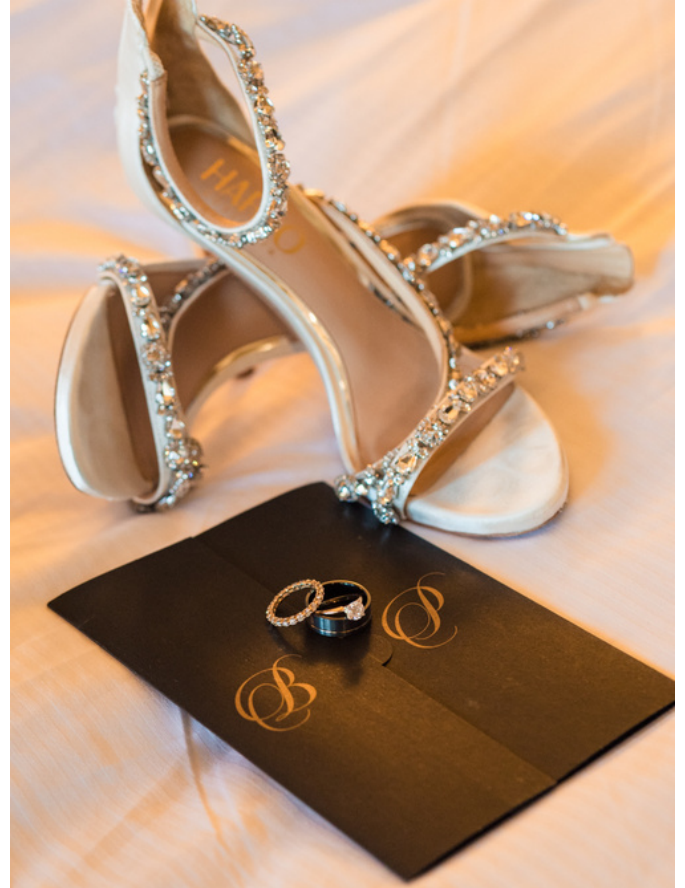


Not Allowing Enough Time

Another common mistake couples make is not allowing enough time for the planning process. It takes time to figure out details like venues, catering, decor and more, so give yourself plenty of time to get everything arranged ahead of time so there isn't a lot of last minute scrambling around involved in the process.

Not Taking Advantage Of Technology

It's now easier than ever before to plan a wedding thanks to all the technology at our fingertips today! There are tons of websites and apps that can help you stay organized throughout the entire process and keep track of payments, deadlines, checklists, etc., so make sure you take advantage of those tools available online.





Forgetting The Little Details

With all the big details like venues and catering being taken care of during wedding planning it's easy for couples to forget about some smaller details that make up an important part of their special day such as music selection, decorations/centerpieces and more. Be sure not to overlook these little details when it comes time for finalizing plans – they might just be what makes your day extra special.

Failing To Consider Guests' Needs & Wishes

While this day is about celebrating your relationship with your partner, it's also important for guests' needs and wishes to be taken into consideration too when planning your wedding day schedule & activities! Make sure there are comfortable seating arrangements available if guests need them or designate certain spots where they can enjoy refreshments while they watch your ceremony & reception unfold!





Not Having A Backup Plan For Weather Conditions

Weather conditions are impossible to predict – which means if you're having an outdoor ceremony or reception then having a backup plan in place is essential! Make sure you know where exactly your back-up venue is located and how long it'll take everyone to get there in case mother nature throws a curveball on your special day

Not Hiring A Day-Of Coordinator

Hiring a Day-of Coordinator doesn't have to be expensive; however it could save you from stress during those few hours leading up until your ceremony and reception begin! Day-of Coordinators are great at keeping track of all vendors involved in order for everything goes smoothly according to plan (which usually never does). So if staying stress free during those last few hours is something that appeals highly for both bride & groom then having someone on deck who knows what needs done & when would definitely benefit over trying manage things yourselves – plus gives you more time enjoying each other's company while prepping for the days events!





Not Taking Time To Enjoy Wedding Planning Together

Planning a wedding as couple should not only be an exciting adventure but also a great bonding experience too! Don't let yourselves be consumed by checking off tasks on lengthy lists, but rather take occasional breaks from all the hustle bustle & just enjoy each other's company by grabbing lunch together, visiting potential venues, watching fun movies about weddings etc! By doing this, it helps bring both bride & groom closer while creating beautiful memories.

Trying To Please Everyone

Lastly, another major pitfall many couples tend fall victim too is trying please every single guest invited . Stressful situations like these can easily arise especially when dealing with families from different backgrounds and cultures! Best advice here would be tune out any outside pressures and focus on what matters most - getting married to the person you love! With a strong foundation built between bride & groom, the rest falls in place naturally as a happy couple starts to create their own traditions within their new family unit!





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THE IDEAL TIMELINE

FOR PLANNING YOUR WEDDING

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Timeline...ish



While this may serve as an "ideal" timeline, everyone works differently. Therefore, don't freak out if you're not aligned with this timeline. Even if you've decided to do things in another form or fashion, this could still serve as a general guideline as it pertains to your own timeline. Planning a wedding in a rushed state can be stressful. Use this timeline to guide you so that you create a stress free experience for yourself and everyone involved.

12-18 Months Before the Wedding

- Set your wedding date and create a budget
- Choose your wedding party and send out save the dates.
- Start scouting vendors and venues.
- Book the ceremony and reception venues, photographer, caterer, and florist.
- Start thinking about wedding themes and colors.
- Determine your wedding dress style and start looking for dresses.

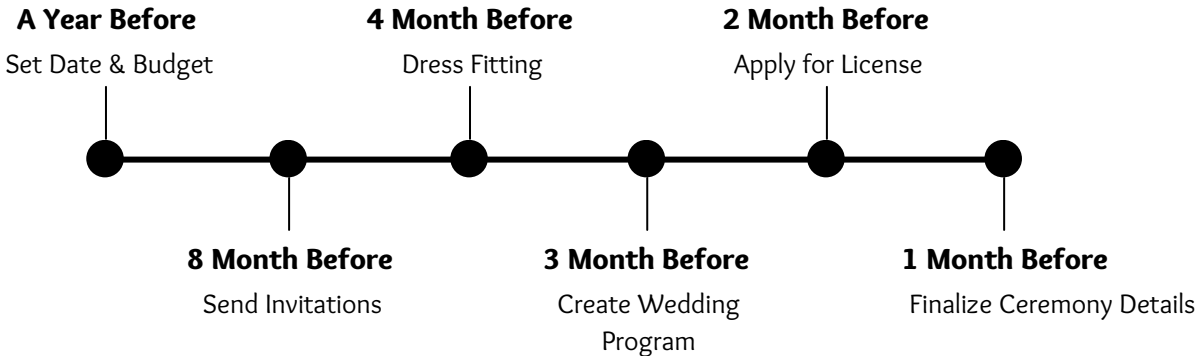


9-11 Months Before the Wedding

- Order your wedding dress and bridesmaids dresses.
- Select your wedding officiant and discuss plans for the ceremony.
- Choose your wedding menu and schedule a tasting session with your caterer.
- Book your wedding entertainment, whether it's a DJ or live band.
- Plan your honeymoon.



TIMELINE



6-8 Months Before the Wedding

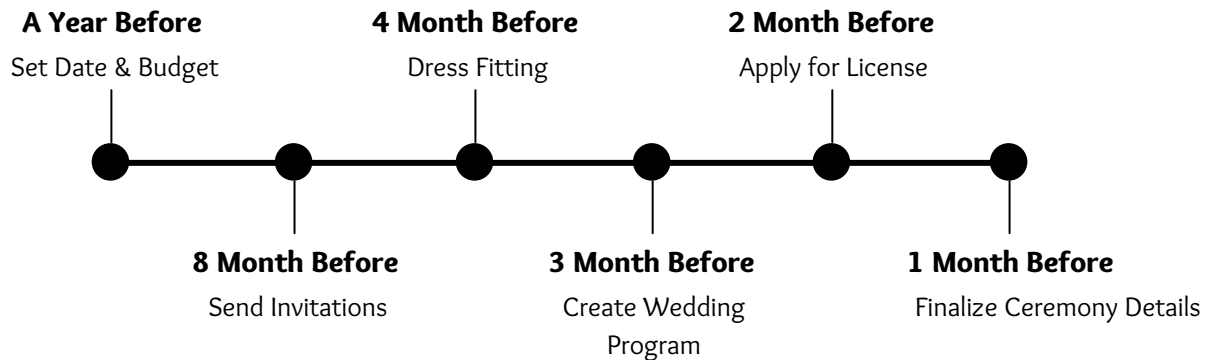
- Decide on your wedding decor and start sourcing for rental equipment.
- Finalize the guest list and start sending out invitations.
- Book wedding transportation for the couple and guests.
- Purchase wedding rings.
- Create a wedding day timeline and confirm all vendor arrangements.



3-5 Months Before the Wedding

- Plan the ceremony details, such as the readings and vows.
- Plan the reception details, such as the seating arrangements and table décor.
- Schedule hair and makeup trials and book the professionals.
- Finalize the wedding attire for the groom and groomsmen.
- Dress fitting.

TIMELINE



1-2 Months Before the Wedding

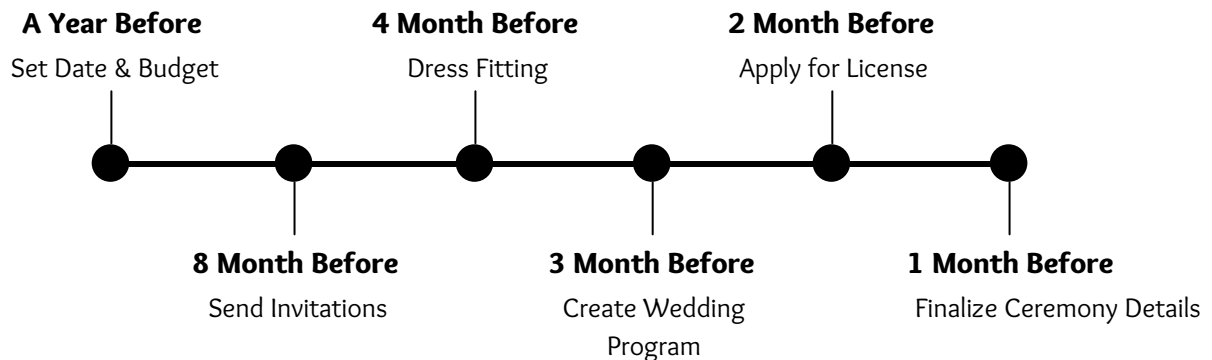
- Finalize the wedding song choices and ceremony music.
- Have the final dress fitting and pick up all attire.
- Apply for your marriage license.
- Confirm all vendor arrangements and make final payments.
- Plan the rehearsal dinner and assign roles for the wedding party.



1 Week Before the Wedding

- Pack for the honeymoon.
- Confirm all vendor and guest arrangements.
- Finalize details with wedding party.

TIMELINE





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BY FLIKK THORNTON PHOTOGRAPHY



HOW TO PICK A DRESS FOR YOUR BODY SHAPE

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Wedding dress shopping is usually an exciting and emotional once-in-a-lifetime experience for a bride. While you may be prepared with questions you already have for your consultant, or wedding dress inspiration from Instagram or Pinterest, you may wonder, "What type of dress will look best on my body shape?" Of the hundreds of decisions, both big and small, that go into having the perfect wedding day, one of the most stressful can be choosing the dress.





Wedding dresses come in different shades, shapes, and sizes. Even if you think you know precisely the type of dress you're after, it can be quite overwhelming finding the perfect one. And you can guess you'll be tempted to change your mind several times throughout the process before you finally go with the perfect one.



The first thing a bride-to-be should consider when picking a wedding dress should be her body shape. Every woman's body is different, but there are some popular basic body shapes. What you need to do is choose a dress that best complements you. Think about your best assets, be it your waist, shoulders, back, legs, or bust, and choose a dress style that highlights those features.

Hourglass Shape

If your hips and bust are equal or almost equal in size and you have a defined waist, you're most likely an hourglass shape! Flaunt your curves in a body hugging mermaid or fit to flare silhouette—they are good to compliment your hips and bust proportions.



Accessories

Focus on what you want to show off the most. You can try a corset which brings in the waist and flaunts your shape. If you want to draw attention upwards towards your eyes and face, earrings and perhaps some hair combs will work. You can also consider wearing a colored sash around the waist. It would further show off your hourglass figure.



Rectangle Shape

If you have equal measurements from your bust to your waist and your hips, you're likely a rectangle or a straight shape. Since you are not particularly curvy, so you'll need a silhouette that shows off the curves you have. Our pick for you would be a body hugging dress but not too tight. This will give off an illusion of more curves. Adding a belt or choosing a style to define your waist would also help create the illusion of curves.

Accessories

The accessories will depend on the style of dress you choose to wear. You can always play up your hair by using beautiful hair combs and clips. You can also consider a flashy hairstyle filled with braids or curls.



Inverted Triangle Shape

Women with the inverted triangle (also popularly known as Apple) shape have a bust and shoulders more massive than their narrow hips and legs. Because you're more heavy on top, you should go with a style that balances out the bottom half, like a ball gown or A-line dress! A voluminous skirt can also help create more even proportions.

Accessories

Drop earrings that elongate the neck are perfect for bustier apple-shaped brides. You can go for bracelets as well. They can replace necklaces, which draw more attention to the neck and chest areas. Drop earrings and bracelets draw the eyes down, away from the bust.



Athletic Shape

Women with an athletic shape usually have equal shoulder and hip measurements with a slightly tinier waist and well defined shoulders. Since you have great shoulders to show off— you can do so in a halter dress, racerback or strapless gown style. You can also give your waist more definition with a belt.



Brides with this body shape are usually lucky because they can go with pretty much any dress style they wish to, so the key with athletic brides is to go with something they are comfortable with. Don't feel that you have to go with the standard A-line dress or pencil-type dress. You could go for something bigger and fuller like flowing skirts or something with lots of decorations such as buttons, bows, and ribbons.



Triangle Shape

If your shoulders and bust are way narrower than your hips, you're most likely a pear or triangle shape. With that, you should choose an A-line or ball gown style that would emphasize your small waist and bust, but won't cling to your hips, creating the illusion of an hourglass. If you have a particularly small bust, you could try a style with visual detailing on the top to create more illusion of that hourglass shape, such as dramatic sleeves, an interesting neckline, beading or lace.



Accessories

Accessorizing a pear-shaped body involves focusing on the top half of your body, so necklaces and earrings are a great tool.

Short/Petite Shape

Short/Petite brides should choose a gown that is narrow at the base. Something with a fishtail that is pulled in at the bottom would do. It would create an illusion of height for the bride.

It's essential to avoid any gown with a full load on the bottom as it will shorten you further. So go for something with a pencil cut that will give you the effect of lengthening your short frame.



Accessories

Short and Petite brides should concentrate on accessories that would draw attention to their faces and necks. Necklaces and earrings would be good choices for this as they will draw attention to their eyes and face.