



Carolina Wedding Guide:

Wedding Checklist

12-18 Months Before

- Announce your engagement
- Work on setting a budget
- Review the budget with parents, if they are helping pay for it
- Start planning an engagement party
- Interview/ hire a planner
- Decide on what style of wedding you want
- Make a rough draft guest list
- Pick your wedding party, make phone calls to get their acceptance
- Select dates for the wedding, engagement party, bridesmaids' luncheon, rehearsal dinner, and day-after wedding brunch
- Book venue and caterer
- Decide and book a hotel for guest accommodations
- Arrange a meeting with your wedding officiant
- Interview other vendors and make decisions (photographer, florists, DJs, rentals, etc.)
- Make vehicle reservations (limo, carriage, trolley)
- Start planning your honeymoon
- Shop for wedding dress, accessories, and any related event outfits
- Put together directions, if needed, to include in Save-the-Date's
- Drive the route from ceremony location to reception location to double check accuracy
- Mail out Save the Date's

6-9 Months Before

- Confirm members of your wedding party
- Order invitations, announcements, ceremony programs, and any other printed items
- Start registering at a variety of stores
- Shop for bridesmaids and flower girl dresses
- Make or purchase any wedding related items - ring bearer pillow, flower girl basket, guest book, etc.

- Create a wedding chart/ schedule for your wedding day
- Figure out schematics of processional, recessional, at the altar, and reserved seating
- If you're not hiring a planner, designate someone to be in charge of keeping everyone on schedule
- Do a tasting with your bakery and decide on wedding cake/ desserts
- Begin writing any necessary toasts or thank you's for the rehearsal and reception
- Order rentals (linens, lighting, dance floor, tents, tables, chairs, portable toilets, etc.)
- Go over bridal shower and bachelorette party guest list with the host

3-5 Months Before

- Book your rehearsal/ rehearsal dinner location and put together the guest list
- Select a jeweler and order wedding bands (allow time for special engravings)
- Shop for and order tuxedos for groom, groomsmen, the dads, and ring bearer
- Finalize wedding guest list and get everyone's correct address
- Do a trial run of hair and makeup then book your preferred stylists
- Select gifts for bridesmaids, flower girl, ring bearer, parents
- Order wedding favors
- Call vendors to confirm your bookings
- Finalize your honeymoon and obtain any necessary documents (i.e. passport)
- Meet with the caterer and set a menu
- Start addressing invitations or take them to a calligrapher
- Go for a wedding gown/ bridesmaids dresses fitting and schedule any alterations
- Shop for Mother of the Bride and Mother of the Groom dresses
- Make address change cards, if you will be moving after the wedding
- Reserve accommodations for out of town guests
- Bride, select a gift for your Groom
- Groom, select a gift for your Bride
- Decide who is riding in what and with whom on the wedding day

6-8 Weeks Before

- Mail out invitations
- Make your nail appointment for as close to wedding date as possible
- Get your marriage license
- Go for another dress fitting - make sure you have your shoes and proper undergarments
- Meet with the florists and finalize any flower arrangements
- Select ceremony, cocktail hour, and reception music (first dance, Father/ Daughter dance, Mother/ Son dance)

- Distribute schedule, charts, or any other information to vendors or people assisting with your wedding day
- Review your needs (i.e. special shots) with photographer/ videographer
- Assemble wedding favors
- Make sure your wedding party has ordered necessary attire
- Arrange for someone to take your wedding gown to be dry cleaned and preserved after the wedding
- Write and send thank you cards for any early gifts you have received
- Touch base with your vendors - confirm bookings, deposits, and other details
- Shop for fun His & Hers honeymoon clothes
- Write and review speeches/ toasts
- Consider taking a dance lesson with your fiancé - it's a good way to break in your wedding shoes!

3-5 Weeks Before

- Send out rehearsal dinner invitations
- Reconfirm all bookings and accommodations, ask any last minute questions
- Make reception seating chart and/ or place cards
- Fill out any name-change documents
- Pick up your wedding bands
- Do you have something old, new, borrowed and blue?
- Make "Reserved" signs and designate someone to set them out at the ceremony and reception
- Go for a final dress fitting
- Finalize wedding vows with your officiant - Are you writing your own?
- Give your caterer the final head count
- Put any final payments/ tips in envelopes and assign someone you trust to deliver those on the day of the wedding
- Get a test manicure/ pedicure
- Do you want to have an unplugged ceremony?
- Hunt down anyone who hasn't RSVP'd
- Finalize and confirm ceremony/ reception playlists and songs with you DJ
- Design a 'Day Of Wedding' timeline with times and tasks and share it with your team (Maid of Honor, Best Man, bridesmaids, and groomsmen)
- Purchase last minute details: guest book, champagne flutes for toasts, cake knife and server
- Make sure you have gifts for everyone involved in your big day - wedding party, flower girl, ring bearer, parents of the bride/ groom, planner
- Put together a wedding 'emergency kit' for the bride
- Remind wedding party to get any alterations to dresses/ tuxedos
- Confirm your honeymoon arrangements

1-2 Weeks Before

- Pick up your wedding gown
- Check the weather - contact your venue about a contingency plan
- Start packing for your honeymoon
- Confirm arrival times and make sure everyone has the same wedding schedule
- In desperate need of a facial or massage? Now is the time to do that.
- Designate someone to return all the rentals after the wedding
- Double check that you have gifts for everyone
- Hold your ceremony rehearsal and rehearsal dinner
- Ask any last minute questions or make last minute changes

The Day Before

- Make sure all wedding items are packed/ laid out and ready to go
- Enjoy your mani/pedi
- Confirm you have all necessary payments for your vendors
- Put your honeymoon bags in a convenient place
- Assign someone to pick up gifts/ belongings after the reception (Don't forget the top tier of the cake!)
- Relax and enjoy your last night as a "Miss" with your friends and family
- Go to bed early!

Wedding Day Advice

- Allow yourself plenty of time to get ready
- BREATHE
- Don't forget to eat and stay hydrated
- Take time to appreciate your hard work and planning
- Make rounds at your reception - thank everyone for coming
- Don't sweat the small stuff
- Spend time with your new husband/ wife
- Ask your caterer to make to-go boxes of food for an after wedding snack
- Have fun!