

Plan Bold. Plan Local & Marry In Kentucky

THE ULTIMATE WEDDING PLANNING CHECKLIST



PRESENTED BY KENTUCKY WEDDING VENDORS
FKENTUCKYWEDDINGVENDORS.NET

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Let's get excited! Planning a wedding is one of the most exciting milestones in your life — but it can also feel overwhelming without the right guidance. From choosing the perfect venue to coordinating vendors and managing guest details, there are many moving parts involved.

This comprehensive wedding planning checklist was created to guide couples step by step through every phase of the planning process. Whether you're planning a large celebration or an intimate gathering, this checklist will help you stay organized, confident, and stress-free from the moment you get engaged to life after the wedding day. Use this guide as a working document. Highlight sections, add notes, check off tasks, and revisit it often. There is no "perfect" wedding — only the one that feels meaningful and true to you.

12+ MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

LAYING THE FOUNDATION

This stage is all about clarity, communication, and big-picture decisions. Before booking vendors or purchasing attire, it's important to align as a couple and establish a strong planning foundation.

Take time to discuss your shared vision for the wedding day. Talk openly about what matters most to you both — whether that's the guest experience, the venue, photography, food, cultural traditions, or overall atmosphere. These priorities will guide your decisions and help prevent stress later.

Checklist:

- DISCUSS YOUR WEDDING VISION AND PRIORITIES AS A COUPLE
- DECIDE ON THE OVERALL SIZE OF YOUR WEDDING (INTIMATE, MEDIUM, OR LARGE)
- CHOOSE THE GENERAL STYLE OF YOUR WEDDING (TRADITIONAL, MODERN, RUSTIC, DESTINATION, CULTURAL, ETC.)
- ESTABLISH A REALISTIC WEDDING BUDGET
- DECIDE WHO WILL BE CONTRIBUTING FINANCIALLY
- RESEARCH AVERAGE WEDDING COSTS IN KENTUCKY OR YOUR LOCAL AREA
- DRAFT AN INITIAL GUEST LIST TO GUIDE VENUE SELECTION

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Checklist:

- CHOOSE A PREFERRED WEDDING SEASON AND SEVERAL POTENTIAL DATES
- RESEARCH CEREMONY AND RECEPTION VENUES
- TOUR VENUES AND COMPARE PACKAGES
- BOOK YOUR CEREMONY AND RECEPTION VENUES
- HIRE A FULL-SERVICE OR PARTIAL WEDDING PLANNER IF NEEDED
- CREATE A DEDICATED WEDDING EMAIL ADDRESS TO KEEP PLANNING ORGANIZED

9-11 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

BUILDING YOUR VENDOR DREAM TEAM

With your venue secured, your next priority is booking your core vendors. These professionals play a major role in how your wedding day looks, feels, and flows. Many top vendors book far in advance, so securing them early gives you peace of mind.

Use trusted directories like Kentucky Wedding Vendors to find experienced professionals who align with your vision and budget.

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Checklist:

- BOOK YOUR WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER
- BOOK YOUR WEDDING VIDEOGRAPHER
- BOOK YOUR CATERER (IF NOT INCLUDED WITH THE VENUE)
- BOOK BAR SERVICE
- BOOK YOUR DJ OR LIVE BAND
- BOOK YOUR OFFICIANT
- BOOK YOUR FLORIST AND DÉCOR STYLIST
- BOOK RENTAL COMPANIES (CHAIRS, TABLES, LINENS, LIGHTING, TENTS IF NEEDED)
- CHOOSE YOUR WEDDING COLOR PALETTE
- DEFINE YOUR WEDDING THEME OR AESTHETIC
- START INSPIRATION BOARDS FOR DÉCOR, FLORALS, ATTIRE, AND STATIONERY
- BEGIN RESEARCHING WEDDING DRESS STYLES AND DESIGNERS
- BEGIN RESEARCHING GROOM AND WEDDING PARTY ATTIRE

6–8 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

STYLE, GUESTS & VISUAL DETAILS

This phase is where your wedding truly starts to come to life. Attire decisions are made, visual details take shape, and communication with guests begins.

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Be sure to leave enough time for fittings, alterations, and custom orders. This is also the time to focus on how your guests will experience your wedding day.

Checklist:

- PURCHASE YOUR WEDDING DRESS
- SCHEDULE ALL REQUIRED DRESS FITTINGS
- CHOOSE BRIDESMAIDS' DRESSES
- CHOOSE GROOM AND GROOMSMEN ATTIRE
- SELECT WEDDING SHOES AND ACCESSORIES
- FINALIZE YOUR GUEST LIST
- COLLECT GUEST MAILING ADDRESSES
- DESIGN AND SEND SAVE-THE-DATE CARDS
- CREATE AND LAUNCH YOUR WEDDING WEBSITE
- INCLUDE KEY DETAILS (TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATIONS, REGISTRY, RSVP)
- BOOK HAIR AND MAKEUP ARTISTS
- PLAN AND BOOK HONEYMOON FLIGHTS AND ACCOMMODATIONS
- BEGIN SHOPPING FOR WEDDING RINGS

4-5 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

CEREMONY & RECEPTION PLANNING

At this stage, your focus shifts to how your wedding day will flow from start to finish. Thoughtful planning now ensures a smooth and meaningful celebration later.

This is also the time to finalize creative details that reflect your personalities and values.

Checklist:

- ORDER WEDDING INVITATIONS AND STATIONERY
- DECIDE ON RSVP METHOD (ONLINE, MAIL, OR BOTH)
- PLAN THE CEREMONY ORDER
- SELECT READINGS, VOWS, AND CEREMONY MUSIC
- CHOOSE YOUR FIRST DANCE SONG
- CHOOSE PARENT AND SPECIAL DANCE SONGS
- BOOK YOUR WEDDING CAKE DESIGNER OR BAKER
- SCHEDULE MENU AND CAKE TASTINGS
- PLAN RECEPTION LAYOUT AND SEATING FLOW
- DESIGN CEREMONY PROGRAMS, MENUS, SIGNAGE, AND TABLE NUMBERS

1–2 MONTHS BEFORE THE WEDDING

FINAL DETAILS & CONFIRMATIONS

As your wedding day approaches, the focus shifts to confirmations, logistics, and final preparations. Most major decisions should already be made — now it's about fine-tuning.

This is also a good time to slow down and intentionally enjoy the final weeks of engagement.

Checklist:

- CONFIRM FINAL DETAILS WITH ALL VENDORS
- CREATE A DETAILED WEDDING DAY TIMELINE
- SHARE THE TIMELINE WITH VENDORS AND WEDDING PARTY
- APPLY FOR YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE
- FINALIZE SEATING CHART
- ORDER PLACE CARDS AND ESCORT CARDS
- COMPLETE FINAL DRESS FITTING
- BREAK IN WEDDING SHOES
- PREPARE VENDOR PAYMENTS AND GRATUITIES
- WRITE PERSONAL VOWS (IF APPLICABLE)

WEDDING WEEK

STAYING PRESENT & PREPARED

The final week should be focused on calm, confidence, and presence. Trust the planning you've done and allow yourself to fully enjoy this special time.

Checklist:

- CONFIRM FINAL DETAILS WITH ALL VENDORS
- ATTEND CEREMONY REHEARSAL
- ATTEND REHEARSAL DINNER
- PACK A WEDDING DAY EMERGENCY KIT
- PACK OVERNIGHT AND HONEYMOON BAGS
- CONFIRM TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS
- STAY HYDRATED AND GET ENOUGH REST

AFTER THE WEDDING

WRAPPING UP & MOVING FORWARD

Once the celebration ends, there are a few final tasks to complete. Take your time and enjoy the transition into married life.

Checklist:

- RETURN RENTAL ITEMS
- PRESERVE AND CLEAN WEDDING ATTIRE
- SEND THANK-YOU NOTES TO GUESTS AND VENDORS
- LEAVE REVIEWS FOR YOUR VENDORS
- ORGANIZE AND BACK UP WEDDING PHOTOS AND VIDEOS
- COMPLETE NAME CHANGE PAPERWORK (IF APPLICABLE)

FINAL NOTE

Your wedding journey doesn't have to be stressful. With the right planning tools and trusted professionals, it can be meaningful, joyful, and unforgettable.

For trusted venues and wedding professionals, visit

Kentucky Wedding Vendors-

<https://kentuckyweddingvendors.net/>