

WEDDING PLANNING CHECKLIST

The Hands-on Groom's Ultimate Tool for an Organized Wedding

1 YEAR BEFORE	TARGET DATE OF COMPLETION	NOTES FROM THE HANDS-ON GROOM
<input type="checkbox"/> Announce your engagement to your family and friends		
<input type="checkbox"/> Organize the pamamanhikan		Let's not kill this Filipino tradition please. It's just a simple courtesy, right?
<input type="checkbox"/> Identify wedding blogs where you can get inspirations and insights		
<input type="checkbox"/> Choose a color motif		
<input type="checkbox"/> Discuss with your partner to set your budget		
<input type="checkbox"/> Choose the members of your wedding party		
<input type="checkbox"/> Have a rough guest list to know your estimated head count		Majority of your costs depend on head count. Discuss with your partner if you plan to have an intimate wedding or not. You need the head count for budget estimation as well as for inquiring with suppliers.
<input type="checkbox"/> Hire a wedding coordinator		Refer to https://thehandsongroom.com/wedding-coordinator-faqs/ for your FAQs about booking a coordinator.
<input type="checkbox"/> Book your church / ceremony venue		
<input type="checkbox"/> Book your reception venue		
<input type="checkbox"/> Browse wedding gown ideas		

8 MONTHS BEFORE	TARGET DATE OF COMPLETION	NOTES FROM THE HANDS-ON GROOM
<input type="checkbox"/> Send your Save-the-Date for better management of guest list		This will help your guests manage their schedule, and get better airfare. Do this at this time especially if you are having a destination wedding.
<input type="checkbox"/> Hire your photographer and videographer		If possible, book these suppliers in a wedding fair to get better rates and additional freebies.
<input type="checkbox"/> Organize your engagement shoot (if applicable)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Come up with a wedding hashtag to document your wedding planning journey		Some couples have a separate hashtag for planning phase and another for the wedding day itself. In our case, we wanted to have one hashtag from start to finish. Both options are good as long as it would be easy for you to look back to your wedding memories.
<input type="checkbox"/> Choose your couturier for the wedding gown and suit/tuxedo		Consider those who offer packages to save money.
<input type="checkbox"/> Create your wedding website / social media group to provide initial details of your wedding		This can help your guests to have a go-to site for all the details. You can also upload here your love story and other information to help them better understand the reason for the celebration.
<input type="checkbox"/> Shortlist caterers based on your budget and start to meet them for food sampling		Ask them the number of assigned waiter per table. This matters on your wedding day.
<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve your hotel rooms for you and your guests		Book it in advance to lock-in the rates, especially if your wedding is in December/January.
<input type="checkbox"/> Register with your selected brands and create your wedding registry		Include this in your website / social media group
<input type="checkbox"/> Book your priest / officiant who will perform the ceremony (in case you want a personal one)		If you want to have a personal priest/officiant, agree with them in advance to ensure that they are available on your wedding day.

6 MONTHS BEFORE	TARGET DATE OF COMPLETION	NOTES FROM THE HANDS-ON GROOM
<input type="checkbox"/> Do your engagement shoot		Some would advice to do it 9 to 10 months from the wedding. In my opinion, 6 months is a better option because at this stage, you have booked most suppliers and you have better vision of your theme.
<input type="checkbox"/> Book your caterer		
<input type="checkbox"/> Arrange your invitations		
<input type="checkbox"/> Finalize your guestlist		Don't forget to hand-over to your maid-of-honor and best man so they have reference of who can come to your bachelorette and stag parties
<input type="checkbox"/> Start organizing your honeymoon		
<input type="checkbox"/> Hire your wedding stylist / florist		I suggest to do this 6 months before the wedding because at this stage, you have a visibility of the total wedding costs so you can better decide how much you are willing to spend on styling.
<input type="checkbox"/> Choose the wedding party attire		
<input type="checkbox"/> Research about cake suppliers and go cake tasting		
<input type="checkbox"/> First wedding gown and tuxedo/suit fitting		
<input type="checkbox"/> Purchase your wedding rings		6 months too early? Nope, especially when you are buying a bespoke piece.
<input type="checkbox"/> Book your reception host		Trust me when I say that this can make or break your reception. Find a good one.
<input type="checkbox"/> Start enrolling to the gym / follow regimen		Your wedding day self will thank you for it.

4 MONTHS BEFORE	TARGET DATE OF COMPLETION	NOTES FROM THE HANDS-ON GROOM
<input type="checkbox"/> Check the status of your in-process tasks (such as invitations, wedding party attire, guest confirmations, etc.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Book your supplier for lights and sounds		
<input type="checkbox"/> Book rentals needed (chairs, tents, etc.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Arrange transportation services		If your budget is tight, at least figure out the attendees with cars. Start asking them if they can help you with the logistics. Check also if you will be renting a bridal car.
<input type="checkbox"/> Order your cake		
<input type="checkbox"/> Book your rehearsal and rehearsal lunch/dinner venues (if you intend to have one)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Book your hair and make-up artist (HMUA)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Finalize the design of the event with your stylist		
<input type="checkbox"/> Release of engagement shoot photos / video		4 months before the wedding day can help your guests get more excited. It can also remind them to confirm their attendance.
<input type="checkbox"/> Shop for a gift for your spouse-to-be		
<input type="checkbox"/> Book photo/videobooth (if applicable)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure passport is renewed valid at the time of honeymoon (if applicable)		You don't want to find out later that you can't make it to your honeymoon, right?

3 MONTHS BEFORE	TARGET DATE OF COMPLETION	NOTES FROM THE HANDS-ON GROOM
<input type="checkbox"/> Hire your wedding day musicians		
<input type="checkbox"/> Finalize the menu for the reception		
<input type="checkbox"/> Print necessary materials (e.g., reception menu, programs, etc.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your priest/officiant		
<input type="checkbox"/> Identify readers		Check church requirement who can be lectors
<input type="checkbox"/> First fitting for your bespoke wedding bands		
<input type="checkbox"/> Buy accessories as early as now (these little things can be sources of stress later)		<input type="checkbox"/> Shoes <input type="checkbox"/> Hair accessories <input type="checkbox"/> Undergarments <input type="checkbox"/> Belt, socks, suspenders, <input type="checkbox"/> Handkerchief (you will need this!) <input type="checkbox"/> Contact lenses (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Jewelries <input type="checkbox"/> Bow tie / neck tie / pocket square
<input type="checkbox"/> Compile information of recommended places / activities to do for your out-of-town guests		Update in website / social media group. They will love you for this.
<input type="checkbox"/> Start the countdown		<p>Don't overdo this please. You can actually make a countdown privately through your website/social media group. This is for your guests and not really for those not invited. It can actually be awkward especially for those friends who did not get the invite.</p> <p>You can also make a countdown while walking down the memory lane! Share your love story to your guests (how you met, how he proposed, etc.)</p>

2 MONTHS BEFORE	TARGET DATE OF COMPLETION	NOTES FROM THE HANDS-ON GROOM
<input type="checkbox"/> Send out invitations and remind those who have not yet confirmed their attendance		Don't forget to be clear of the number of slots applicable for each invitation unless you are opting for an open invitation where your guests can freely bring anyone (but this is not preferred for your budget's sake!)
<input type="checkbox"/> Hire your wedding day musicians		
<input type="checkbox"/> Order your wedding day favors for principal sponsors, guests, etc.		Some suppliers require placement of order at least 2 months before, especially if your wedding day is during the peak months.
<input type="checkbox"/> Finalize the wedding day timeline and schedule		If DIY, start identifying all the tasks and delegate to friends and family
<input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your coordinator		Invite your photographer/videographer, host, wedding party. If not possible, you can create an online group where you can provide updates for everyone.
<input type="checkbox"/> Book mobile bar		Or try to figure out where you're going to buy liquor (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/> Purchase a guestbook		
<input type="checkbox"/> Update your wedding website / social media group		Remind on the attire, etiquette (e.g., will you allow phones during ceremony?), etc.
<input type="checkbox"/> HMUA trial look (if you intend to do so)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Check requirements for marriage license application (on personal appearance before the local civil registrar of the city or municipality where either of you habitually resides) – issued 2 weeks after submission of complete requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Certified true copy of birth certificate <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of No Marriage (CENOMAR) <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of attendance in a pre-marriage counseling / family planning (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Community tax certificate (CEDULA) <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of valid ID <input type="checkbox"/> Recent ID picture with white background

1 MONTH BEFORE	TARGET DATE OF COMPLETION	NOTES FROM THE HANDS-ON GROOM
<input type="checkbox"/> Arrange your church wedding requirements (if applicable)		<input type="checkbox"/> Marriage license <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage banns (you need to identify name of your respective parish priests and the name and address of your parochial church) - Make sure to do this at least 1 month before the wedding! <input type="checkbox"/> Baptismal and confirmation certificate (at least 6 months valid) <input type="checkbox"/> Latest copy of birth certificate and CENOMAR <input type="checkbox"/> Canonical interview <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-cana marriage seminar
<input type="checkbox"/> Last dress / suit fitting		
<input type="checkbox"/> Select your processional and reception playlist		Request for their repertoire and clarify the number of songs you need to select for ceremony and for the reception
<input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor party / stag party		Do it 3 weeks to 1 month before the wedding. You don't want to get wed with a hangover. TRUST ME.
<input type="checkbox"/> Make sure that the wedding party's attire is ready and complete		Distribute neckties, accessories, etc. if you're providing them. Make sure to have an extra pair to have an allowance for forgetful friends
<input type="checkbox"/> Create seating chart for reception		

<input type="checkbox"/> Touchbase with all vendors and send your final on-the-day timeline		<p>Print on-the-day timeline for all your vendors and wedding party</p> <p>Make sure also that the wedding party is aware of on-the-day time line as well as their responsibilities</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Send out rehearsal invitations (if applicable)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Purchase wedding party gifts		
<input type="checkbox"/> Write vows		
<input type="checkbox"/> Call guests who have not RSVP'd for final head count		Confirm with caterer and chairs/table suppliers the final head count so they can calculate the final bill
<input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your photographer and videographer for your must-have shots		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ask wedding party/family who is availing your HMUA services		To organize on-the-day timeline (i.e., what time they need to come) also to notify your HMUA if additional assistant is required
<input type="checkbox"/> Have the final crew count		You will be providing their meals on the wedding day. For stylists, HMUA, and coordinators, they usually require 3 meals. You may also opt to give them fixed cash allowance (refer to your signed contract!) so you don't need to figure out where to order their meals from.

1 WEEK BEFORE	TARGET DATE OF COMPLETION	NOTES FROM THE HANDS-ON GROOM
<input type="checkbox"/> Confirm with all vendors if they have the final on-the-day timeline		
<input type="checkbox"/> Spa appointment		Time to destress!
<input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that wedding rings fit well		
<input type="checkbox"/> Have extra cheques ready for on-the-day payments		Also prepare a summary of suppliers that need to get paid on the day of the wedding. Assign on-the-day payments to one of your family members or member/s of your wedding party.
<input type="checkbox"/> Break your shoes!		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pack for your honeymoon		
<input type="checkbox"/> Confirm transportation services		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pick-up your wedding gown		
<input type="checkbox"/> Pack your on-the-day box for easy turnover to your coordinator/assigned family and friends		<input type="checkbox"/> Gifts for principal sponsors/wedding party <input type="checkbox"/> Invitation sample (needed for photo/video) <input type="checkbox"/> Accessories (socks, handkerchief, extra pair of necktie/bowtie for your wedding party) <input type="checkbox"/> Church items (candles, bible, cord, veil, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Wedding rings <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries <input type="checkbox"/> Shoes, jewelries, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/> Relax		

THE DAY BEFORE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome out-of-town guests as they arrive		
<input type="checkbox"/> Exercise		Easy exercises please (such as yoga or walking) – no to sore body!
<input type="checkbox"/> Attend rehearsal and rehearsal dinner (if applicable)		
THE WEDDING DAY		
<input type="checkbox"/> Wake-up early and eat a healthy breakfast		
<input type="checkbox"/> Enjoy and take each moment in!		