YOUR WEDDING, YOUR RULES

THE WEDDING CHECKLIST

A practical planning timeline to help you keep the big picture in sight — and enjoy the good bits along the way.

12–18 MONTHS OUT (OR AS SOON AS YOU'RE READY)

- [ ] Set a date or choose a preferred date range.
- [ ] Decide on the kind of celebration you want — intimate, big, relaxed, formal, alternative or your own.
- [ ] Set an overall budget and decide what matters most to you.
- [ ] Start a guest list and get a rough idea of numbers.
- [ ] Research and book your venue or ceremony location.
- [ ] Choose your celebrant and discuss the style of ceremony you have in mind.
- [ ] Research and book key suppliers such as photographer, videographer, caterer and entertainment.
- [ ] Consider wedding insurance, if appropriate for your plans.

6–9 MONTHS OUT

- [ ] Choose your wedding party or decide who will stand beside you.
- [ ] Start looking at outfits, suits, dresses and accessories.
- [ ] Book hair and makeup, florist, transport and accommodation if needed.
- [ ] Think about ceremony style, music, readings and meaningful rituals.
- [ ] Create a wedding website or communication plan for guests, if useful.
- [ ] Send save-the-dates or share the date with guests.
- [ ] Research décor, styling, hire items and special touches.

3–5 MONTHS OUT

- [ ] Confirm photographer, videographer, entertainment and other suppliers.
- [ ] Choose wedding rings and arrange any resizing or engraving.
- [ ] Plan invitations and collect guest addresses.
- [ ] Discuss ceremony details with your celebrant and begin thinking about personal vows.
- [ ] Choose readings, poems, music and people you would like involved.
- [ ] Book cake, catering, beverages and any remaining hire items.
- [ ] Arrange transport and accommodation details for you or your guests.

Your day, your way. Use what helps, skip what doesn't, and make room for what matters.

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The finishing touches, the final checks and — most importantly — time to enjoy the celebration.

1–2 MONTHS OUT

- [ ] Finalise guest list and confirm numbers with your venue and caterers.
- [ ] Send invitations and keep track of RSVPs and dietary requirements.
- [ ] Confirm running order and timing with your celebrant and key suppliers.
- [ ] Finalise ceremony and reception details, including music and special moments.
- [ ] Prepare seating arrangements, place cards, signage and printed stationery if using them.
- [ ] Confirm outfit fittings, accessories and any alterations.
- [ ] Organise gifts, thank-you notes and wedding-party details.
- [ ] Check legal marriage paperwork and appointment requirements with your celebrant.

2 WEEKS OUT

- [ ] Confirm final guest numbers and supplier arrangements.
- [ ] Provide suppliers with a timeline and relevant contact details.
- [ ] Check transport, accommodation, weather plans and location access.
- [ ] Prepare a list of items to take to the ceremony and reception.
- [ ] Break in your shoes and try on your complete outfit.
- [ ] Write or polish personal vows and share agreed ceremony details with your celebrant.
- [ ] Arrange final payments and check due dates.

THE DAY BEFORE

- [ ] Pack rings, vow books, paperwork and any ceremony items.
- [ ] Check outfits, shoes, accessories and emergency supplies.
- [ ] Confirm who is bringing décor, signage, flowers and personal items.
- [ ] Charge phones, cameras and any devices you'll need.
- [ ] Make sure your wedding party and key helpers know where to be and when.
- [ ] Eat something, hydrate and get some rest.

THE BIG DAY

- [ ] Eat breakfast and drink water.
- [ ] Give yourself plenty of time to get ready.
- [ ] Hand over the running sheet and supplier contacts to your nominated person.
- [ ] Bring the rings, vows and any required legal documents.
- [ ] Take a breath, be present and let the day unfold.
- [ ] Celebrate the two of you — this is what it's all about!

AFTER THE WEDDING

- [ ] Return hired items and collect personal belongings.
- [ ] Arrange outfit cleaning or preservation if desired.
- [ ] Check any outstanding supplier payments.
- [ ] Send thank-you messages or cards when you're ready.
- [ ] Back up and enjoy your photos and video.
- [ ] Order your official marriage certificate if required, and update your details where relevant.

The checklist is here to support you, not boss you around. There is no single right way to get married.