



A Picture Perfect Wedding *Timeline*

12+ Months Before

- ☐ **Start a wedding folder or binder** – Keep track of ideas for your special day, planning tools, and contact information.
- ☐ **Figure out your budget** – Determine how much money you have to spend (See our Wedding Budget Worksheet).
- ☐ **Choose your wedding party**
- ☐ **Start the guest list** – Keep track of contact info, RSVPs, gifts, and any other information that may be important.
- ☐ **Hire a Wedding Planner and/or Coordinator** – A Planner will have relationships with vendors and be able to provide insight on them, as well as help organize and plan, of course. A Coordinator will help things run smoothly on the day of the wedding.
- ☐ **Shop for your Wedding Dress**
- ☐ **Find a Ceremony & Reception Venue** – Come see what Parker Arts has to offer!
- ☐ **Shop for a Cater and Baker** – See Our Preferred Caterers List
- ☐ **Shop for your Photographer and Videographer** – See our list of Area Venders in Wedding Resources for photographers.
- ☐ **Shop for your Ceremony Music**
- ☐ **Shop for Reception Entertainment**
- ☐ **Shop for your Florist** – See our list of Area Venders in Wedding Resources for local florists.

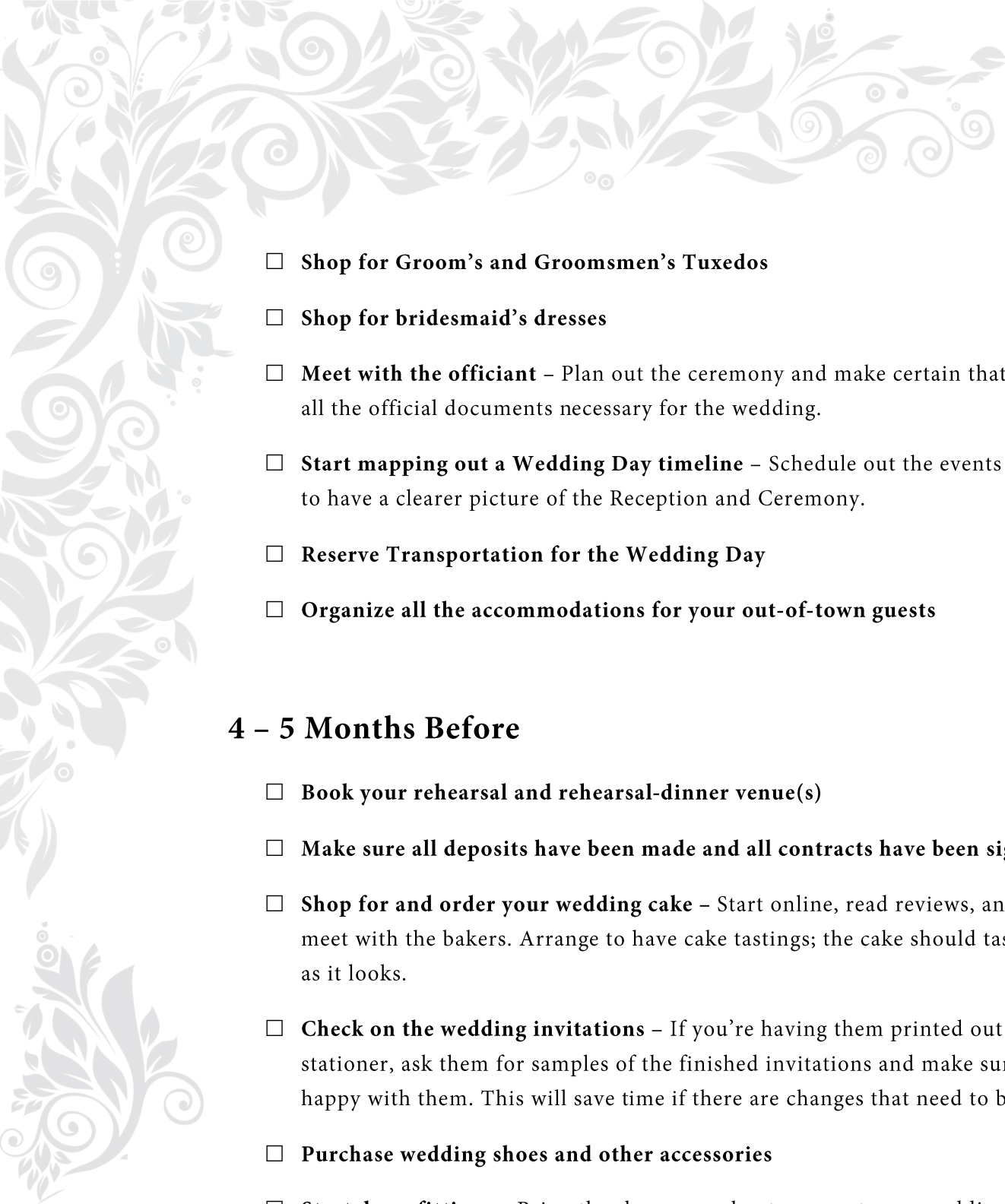


8 – 11 Months Before

- ☐ **Find an Officiant**
- ☐ **Book your Caterer and Baker**
- ☐ **Book your Photographer and Videographer**
- ☐ **Book your Ceremony Music**
- ☐ **Book Entertainment for Reception**
- ☐ **Book your Florist**
- ☐ **Purchase your Wedding Dress** – Be sure to schedule time for extra fittings.
- ☐ **Reserve a block of hotel rooms for your guests from out-of-town** – See our list of Area Vendors in Wedding Resources for hotel recommendations.
- ☐ **Register for Wedding Gifts** – Sign up with two or three retailers, ideally with an in-store location nearby for guests that don't like shopping online.
- ☐ **Create a wedding site** – A wedding website is a good way to keep your guest posted on any updates or changes as well as provide a “one-stop-spot” for all the important information. Include the date, location (with directions/maps), hotel locations for out-of-town guests, and any other relevant information. Send this link to your invitees; you can even put the link in your invitations. The best part: there are wedding website providers that you can use to do it for free!

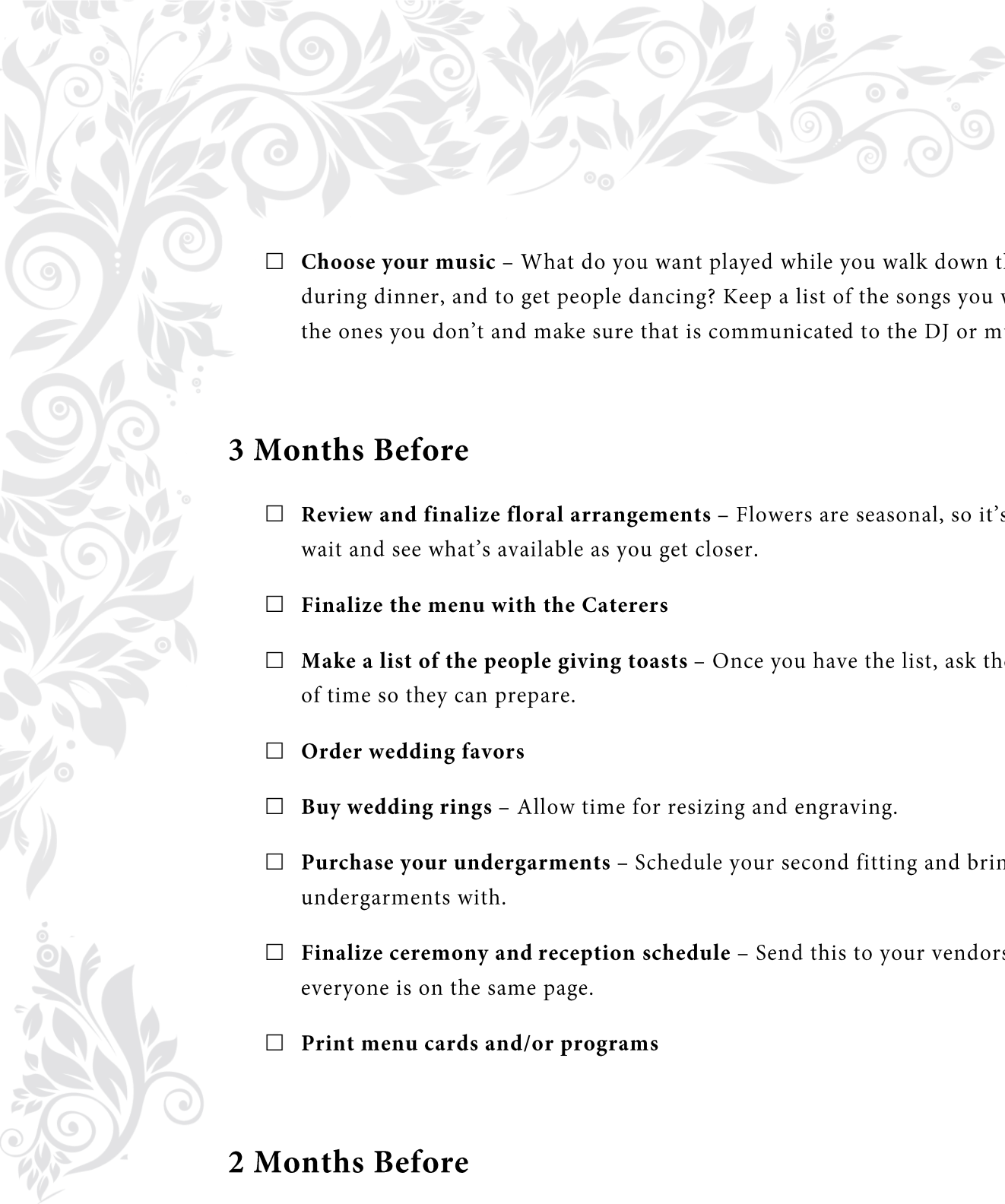
6 – 7 Months Before

- ☐ **Shop for and purchase Invitations** – Hire a calligrapher to save time or DIY to save money.
- ☐ **Start planning your Honeymoon** – Remember to make sure your passports are up to date if you are traveling out of the country.
- ☐ **Shop for Party Favors**
- ☐ **Send out save-the-date cards**

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- ☐ **Shop for Groom's and Groomsmen's Tuxedos**
 - ☐ **Shop for bridesmaid's dresses**
 - ☐ **Meet with the officiant** – Plan out the ceremony and make certain that you have all the official documents necessary for the wedding.
 - ☐ **Start mapping out a Wedding Day timeline** – Schedule out the events of the day to have a clearer picture of the Reception and Ceremony.
 - ☐ **Reserve Transportation for the Wedding Day**
 - ☐ **Organize all the accommodations for your out-of-town guests**

4 – 5 Months Before

- ☐ **Book your rehearsal and rehearsal-dinner venue(s)**
- ☐ **Make sure all deposits have been made and all contracts have been signed**
- ☐ **Shop for and order your wedding cake** – Start online, read reviews, and then meet with the bakers. Arrange to have cake tastings; the cake should taste as good as it looks.
- ☐ **Check on the wedding invitations** – If you're having them printed out by a stationer, ask them for samples of the finished invitations and make sure you're happy with them. This will save time if there are changes that need to be made.
- ☐ **Purchase wedding shoes and other accessories**
- ☐ **Start dress fittings** – Bring the shoes you plan to wear at your wedding, it will help the tailor determine the length of your dress. Additionally, bring any accessories you plan to wear day-of as well to have a better idea of how you look on your big day. Be prepared to go in for 2 to 3 fittings to get everything just right.
- ☐ **Schedule hair and makeup artists** – Make a few appointments and take pictures at each to compare and help you decide which look you like best.


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- ☐ **Choose your music** – What do you want played while you walk down the aisle, during dinner, and to get people dancing? Keep a list of the songs you want and the ones you don't and make sure that is communicated to the DJ or musicians.

3 Months Before

- ☐ **Review and finalize floral arrangements** – Flowers are seasonal, so it's best to wait and see what's available as you get closer.
- ☐ **Finalize the menu with the Caterers**
- ☐ **Make a list of the people giving toasts** – Once you have the list, ask them ahead of time so they can prepare.
- ☐ **Order wedding favors**
- ☐ **Buy wedding rings** – Allow time for resizing and engraving.
- ☐ **Purchase your undergarments** – Schedule your second fitting and bring the undergarments with.
- ☐ **Finalize ceremony and reception schedule** – Send this to your vendors so everyone is on the same page.
- ☐ **Print menu cards and/or programs**

2 Months Before

- ☐ **Check in with all your vendors** – Make sure all your questions are answered and see if they have any for you.
- ☐ **Meet with the photographer** – Talk about the specific shots you want taken and where.
- ☐ **Review the playlist with the musicians or DJ** – Double check that they have the list of songs you want played and the ones that you don't.

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- ☐ **Send out the invitations** – Mail them 6-8 weeks before with the RSVP cutoff at 3 weeks after the postmark date.
 - ☐ **Enjoy a bachelor/bachelorette party** – Hopefully the best man/maid of honor has got this all planned out for you, but if nothing has been mentioned thus far, it's okay to ask purely for scheduling purposes.

1 Month Before

- ☐ **Update your guest list with RSVPs** – Be sure to contact the people who have not responded yet.
- ☐ **Obtain your marriage license** – This process can take up to a week. It's good to leave extra time for any unforeseen issues.
- ☐ **Mail the rehearsal-dinner invitations**
- ☐ **Go to your final dress fitting** – With any luck this will be your last fitting. However, schedule another fitting for the week of your wedding just in case, you can always cancel if another fitting is unnecessary.
- ☐ **Arrange final Attendants Gown and hair and makeup appointment**
- ☐ **Plan Seating Arrangement** – Avoid the eraser and draw the layout of the reception room. Write your guest's names on sticky notes and arrange and rearrange them as you see fit. You can also do this on the computer with shapes and textboxes if one of you is a little tech-savvy.
- ☐ **Make arrangements for bar at reception** – With a clearer picture of the head count in mind you can order accordingly. See our Beverage Packages!
- ☐ **Make as many final payments as possible**
- ☐ **Purchase bridesmaids' gifts** – Host a luncheon with bridesmaids if you'd like as well. Otherwise present the gifts to them at the rehearsal dinner.
- ☐ **Write vows**
- ☐ **Confirm Honeymoon reservations**



2 Weeks Before

- ☐ **Pick up all Gowns and Accessories**
- ☐ **Make sure Photographer has a list of photos that you want taken**
- ☐ **Make sure Videographer has a list of all special events you want on video**
- ☐ **Make sure Musicians have the music specified**
- ☐ **Be sure Reception Entertainment is prepared to play the first dance song you requested**
- ☐ **Send directions for drivers of transportation**

1 Week Before

- ☐ **Confirm final head count with Reception Site and Caterer**
- ☐ **Break in your shoes**
- ☐ **Begin packing for Honeymoon**
- ☐ **Relax and get plenty of rest**