

# The Utah Wedding Planning Checklist

From The Utah Wedding Edit - only the vendors we'd book ourselves.

Work top to bottom. The order matters more than the exact months - in Utah, the best venues, photographers, and planners book out 12+ months ahead for May-October dates, so the top of this list is where couples lose the most sleep (and money) by waiting.

## 12+ months out - the big rocks

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- [ ] Set the real budget: who's contributing what, and one number you won't cross.
- [ ] Draft the guest count range - every venue and catering decision hangs on it.
- [ ] Pick 2-3 possible dates before you tour. Utah tip: May-October Saturdays go first; a Friday or a shoulder month (April, November) buys you leverage and availability.
- [ ] Book the venue. If it's outdoors, ask about the weather plan the venue actually runs - tent, indoor flip, or 'hope' - before you sign.
- [ ] Book your photographer and videographer. The good ones carry one wedding per Saturday; this is the category Utah couples most regret waiting on.
- [ ] If you want a planner or month-of coordinator, hire them now - they'll save you money on everything below.
- [ ] Getting married in a canyon or at altitude? Note sunset times and temperature swings for your date - a Provo Canyon evening in June can still need jackets.

## 9-12 months out

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- [ ] Book the florist - and ask what's actually in season in Utah for your month before you fall in love with a moodboard.
- [ ] Book hair & makeup (yes, this early for summer Saturdays - artists take one wedding morning at a time).
- [ ] Book music/entertainment and your officiant.
- [ ] Start the guest list spreadsheet for real: names, addresses, plus-ones.
- [ ] Choose the wedding party, and order attire that needs long lead times (custom suits, made-to-order dresses).
- [ ] Block hotel rooms if you have out-of-state guests - Park City and canyon-adjacent dates especially.
- [ ] Engagement photos: schedule them for the season that matches your invitation vibe, not the deadline.

## 6-9 months out

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- [ ] Book the caterer (if not in-house) and schedule the tasting.
- [ ] Order the dress/attire if you haven't - alterations need months, not weeks.
- [ ] Book the baker and pick the cake design at the tasting, not from photos alone.
- [ ] Reserve rentals: tables, chairs, linens, heaters for shoulder-season evenings.
- [ ] Book transportation - shuttles matter if your ceremony and reception are a canyon apart.

- Send save-the-dates (earlier for holiday-weekend or destination-ish dates like Park City).
- Register for gifts, and set up the wedding website with travel notes for out-of-towners.

### **3-6 months out**

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- Order invitations; hire a calligrapher now if you want one.
- Plan the ceremony with your officiant - vows, readings, who walks with whom.
- Do the menu tasting and lock the catering order.
- Book the rehearsal-dinner spot.
- Buy or reserve wedding-party gifts and any welcome bags.
- Schedule dress fittings; buy shoes and accessories before the first fitting.
- Marriage license homework: check your county clerk's current requirements, fees, and hours so there's no week-of scramble. [Verify current details with your county - rules change.]

### **6-12 weeks out**

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- Mail invitations (8 weeks out is the classic mark; earlier for summer holiday weekends).
- Build the day-of timeline with your photographer and coordinator - work backward from sunset for portraits.
- Confirm floral order against the final look; swap anything that won't survive an August afternoon outdoors.
- Hair & makeup trial - same artist, same products as the day-of.
- Chase RSVPs the week they're due; give the final count to the caterer on their deadline.
- Write vows. Seriously, start now.
- Arrange seating chart once RSVPs are in.

### **The final two weeks**

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- Confirm arrival times, addresses, and points of contact with every single vendor - one email each, in writing.
- Get the marriage license (mind the validity window).
- Final dress fitting; break in your shoes at home.
- Prepare final payments and tips in labeled envelopes; hand them to your coordinator or a trusted person.
- Pack an emergency kit: sewing kit, stain pen, pain reliever, blister bandages, phone chargers - and water. Utah altitude + dancing dehydrates everyone.
- Delegate the day-of jobs: who moves the getaway car, who takes gifts home, who has the rings at 9 a.m.
- Check the weather three days out and actually trigger the backup plan if it's ugly - deciding early beats deciding wet.

## After the wedding

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- [ ] Send vendor thank-yous - and if someone was great, tell them you'd be glad to be a reference. It means more than you think.
- [ ] Return rentals and the tux; get the dress cleaned/preserved if you're keeping it.
- [ ] Complete and file any name-change paperwork.
- [ ] Write reviews for the vendors who showed up big - it's the currency good vendors run on.
- [ ] Send photo-sharing links to family before the group-text chaos starts.

theutahweddingedit.example - swap in your real domain before printing for clients