

DIY WEDDING TIMELINE

How to use this template:

On this page, simply fill in the blanks. This first page will help you count backwards from the Ceremony. Transfer the calculated “start times” to page #3, which will be the “final timeline.” Feel free to skip sections that don’t apply to you. Tips: Account for a bathroom breaks and breathing room. Ask vendors and venue for feedback.



1. CEREMONY TIME: _____
2. BRIDAL PARTY HIDDEN AT CEREMONY: _____
(30 MINUTES BEFORE CEREMONY TIME)

Are you doing a first look? Y/N

A “FIRST LOOK” IS WHEN A BRIDE AND GROOM SEE EACH OTHER BEFORE THE CEREMONY. THIS IS TRADITIONAL IN THE JEWISH CULTURE. IT LETS YOU RELAX, TAKE PHOTOS WITH EACH OTHER, WITH THE BRIDAL PARTY, AND WITH FAMILY BEFORE THE CRAZINESS OF THE CEREMONY. IF NOT DOING A FIRST LOOK, THESE PHOTOS ARE USUALLY TAKEN BETWEEN THE CEREMONY AND THE RECEPTION, AT “COCKTAIL HOUR.”

IF NOT DOING A FIRST LOOK, SKIP TO 5.

3. FIRST LOOK: _____
(GENERALLY, 2 HOURS BEFORE CEREMONY TIME, ADD MORE IF YOU WANT TO GO TO MULTIPLE PHOTO LOCATIONS)

4. FAMILY & BRIDAL PARTY PHOTOS: _____
(30 MINUTES AFTER FIRST LOOK. MAKE SURE TO TELL PEOPLE WHEN/WHERE TO GO!)

5. FINISHED GETTING READY: _____
(GOAL TIME! IF YOU’RE DOING A FIRST LOOK, THIS IS THE SAME TIME AS THE FIRST LOOK. IF NOT, FIND OUT HOW MUCH TIME IT TAKES TO GET TO THE CEREMONY, THEN SUBTRACT FROM “HIDDEN AT CEREMONY” TIME. TIP: MAKE SURE TO GIVE YOURSELF EXTRA TIME IF YOU’RE TYPICALLY LATE OR ANY OF YOUR PARTY IS KNOWN FOR BEING TARDY! IT’S THE BEST THING IN THE WORLD TO HAVE EXTRA TIME ON YOUR WEDDING DAY!)

6. START GETTING READY: _____
(ASK YOUR MAKEUP/HAIR PEOPLE HOW MUCH TIME THEY NEED FOR EVERYONE WHO IS GETTING PROFESSIONAL HAIR/MAKEUP, AND TIME YOUR OWN TRIAL OR HOW MUCH TIME IT TAKES YOU TO GET READY. MAKE SURE TO CALCULATE MOTHERS AND SIGNIFICANT FAMILY MEMBERS IF THEY’RE GETTING MAKEUP. COUNT BACKWARDS FROM YOUR “FINISHED GETTING READY” TIME AND WRITE THAT TIME HERE).

Cocktail Hour/Reception:

Now we're going forwards again!

7. CEREMONY ENDS: _____

(TALK WITH YOUR OFFICIANT ON HOW LONG THE CEREMONY WILL BE)

8. COCKTAIL HOUR BEGINS: _____

(TYPICALLY, RIGHT AFTER CEREMONY ENDS. CONSIDER WHETHER IT WILL BE AT THE CEREMONY OR RECEPTION VENUE. IF AT THE RECEPTION, CONSIDER TRAVEL TIME.)

9. FORMAL FAMILY AND BRIDAL PARTY PHOTOS: _____

(IF YOU DID A FIRST LOOK AND PHOTOS BEFOREHAND, RESERVE ABOUT 15 MINUTES FOR MISSED SHOTS, RANDOM FAMILY MEMBERS, AND A FEW COUPLE PHOTOS, THEN HEAD TO YOUR COCKTAIL HOUR. IF YOU DID NOT DO A FIRST LOOK, GIVE YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER 45-60 MINUTES. BE SURE TO DISCUSS THIS WITH THE PHOTOGRAPHER AND MAKE A LIST OF GROUPINGS YOU WANT!)

10. RECEPTION BEGINS: _____

(IF YOU DID A FIRST LOOK, THE RECEPTION CAN USUALLY BEGIN AN HOUR AFTER THE CEREMONY ENDS. IF YOU DID NOT DO A FIRST LOOK, PLAN ON STARTING THE RECEPTION ABOUT 1.5-2 HOURS AFTER THE CEREMONY ENDS.)

As we move into the Reception, it becomes more about the ORDER of events, not the timing. So, here are a list of things that typically happen at a Reception, and how much time they usually take. Use the blanks to write down in what order you want them to happen, IF you want them to happen at all:

- _____ GRAND ENTRANCE
- _____ FIRST DANCE - 5 MINUTES
- _____ PARENT DANCES - 7 MINUTES
- _____ DINNER - TALK TO CATERERS
- _____ TOASTS - 15 MINUTES
- _____ CAKE CUTTING TOGETHER - 5 MINUTES
- _____ BOUQUET TOSS - 5 MINUTES
- _____ GARTER TOSS - 5 MINUTES

11. SEND-OFF, GUESTS GONE: _____



WEDDING DAY TIMELINE

	8am		
		9am	
	10am		
		11am	
	12pm		
		1pm	
	2pm		
		3pm	
	4pm		
		5pm	
	6pm		
		7pm	
	8pm		
		9pm	
	10pm		
		11pm	