

SMASHING *the* GLASS

INSPIRED JEWISH WEDDINGS

THE ULTIMATE JEWISH WEDDING CHECKLIST





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If you're reading this, you're probably newly engaged and embarking on the journey of **planning your Jewish (or Jew-ish) wedding** – Mazal Tov! As exciting a time as this is, we know it can also be stressful – there's so much to do, and so many decisions to make.

I'm Karen Cinnamon, founder of **Smashing The Glass**, the world's biggest Jewish wedding blog, and **Brides Club** (our members-only community for Jewish and Jew-ish brides-to-be) you can join for free [here!](#))

On the following pages, I've put together the ultimate Jewish wedding planning checklist and timeline. From venues to videographers, kippot to ketubahs, I've got you covered!



Karen Cinnamon (Image: [Blake Ezra Photography](#))

One note before we get started: This timeline is based on a 12-month planning period, but if you have more time, feel free to space things out. And if you have less, you'll probably want to hustle on getting your venue and vendors booked ASAP.

Alright, time to get planning!

Karen Cinnamon
Founder + Editor of [Smashing The Glass](#)



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U L T I M A T E J E W I S H W E D D I N G C H E C K L I S T

12 MONTHS +

- Figure out the kind of wedding you really want - what is most important to you and your partner?
- Set your budget.
- Make a preliminary guest list.
- Choose an approximate wedding date (and [check out our guide to dates to avoid for a Jewish wedding](#)).
- If you want to use a planner, start looking for one.
- Start searching for your venue.
- Confirm your venue and pick your final date
- Select and book your Rabbi / officiant
- Begin looking for photographer/ videographer, book ASAP.

10-11 MONTHS BEFORE

- Start shopping for your dress.
- Start looking at caterers, if separate from venue.
- Organize engagement shoot if you want one.
- Select and ask people to be in your wedding party.
- Book florist.
- Create a wedding website

8-9 MONTHS BEFORE

- Finalize your guest list and send save-the-dates.
- Hire day-of coordinator if using one.
- Order your wedding dress.
- Order bridesmaid dresses, if relevant.
- [Choose a ketubah.](#)
- [Choose a chuppah.](#)
- Book entertainment.
- Renew or get passports for [honeymoon](#), if necessary.

U L T I M A T E J E W I S H W E D D I N G C H E C K L I S T

6-7 MONTHS BEFORE

- Order [kippot](#) to hand out to guests, if necessary.
- Set up a meeting with your officiant to discuss the ceremony.
- Start to plan any extra events associated with the wedding.
- Finalize your guest list.
- Look into wedding insurance.
- Set up your wedding registry.
- Find a baker for your wedding cake, if you want one.
- Order invitations.
- Coordinate any relevant rentals (furniture, port-a-potties, tents, linens etc.).

4-5 MONTHS BEFORE

- Book your honeymoon.
- Check out wedding rings and decide what you want.
- Schedule your hair and makeup trials.
- Reserve hotel blocks for your wedding.
- Make wedding night reservations as needed.
- Make a list of people giving toasts/[making speeches](#).
- Finalize rehearsal dinner.
- Book wedding transportation.
- Organize groom and groomsmen's attire.
- Purchase wedding shoes.
- [Choose your ceremony music](#).





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U L T I M A T E J E W I S H W E D D I N G C H E C K L I S T

3 MONTHS BEFORE

- Talk to people you'd like to do special performances or readings.
- Book pre-wedding/rehearsal dinner.
- Address and mail your wedding invitations.
- Organize favors, if having.
- Organize [bridal party gifts](#) / [parent gifts](#), if having.
- Finalize menu.
- [Start creating your wedding program](#) if you're having one
- Finalize [order of ceremony and reception](#).
- Print menu cards and program, if using.
- Send [day-of schedule](#) to vendors.

2 MONTHS BEFORE

- Begin working on your wedding vows, if writing your own.
- Make sure everyone in your wedding party has outfits.
- Figure out what you're wearing to your rehearsal dinner / Auf Ruf
- Put together a list of what you want to pack for your honeymoon.
- Review playlist with band or DJ.
- Arrange smash glass and [smash glass pouch](#).

6 WEEKS BEFORE

- Make sure you're updating your gift registry and spreadsheets as gifts arrive.
- Figure out if you want a [guest book](#), and make one happen if so.
- Finalize details of your [wedding ceremony](#).
- Confirm details with all vendors.
- Finalize ketubah witnesses.
- Make shot list for photographer.



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3-4 WEEKS BEFORE

- Have a final meeting with your officiant.
- Make sure everyone taking part in the ceremony understands what is involved.
- Arrange your seating chart.
- Create your escort cards.
- Create a wedding timeline.
- Print [wedding programs](#), if you're having them.
- Get your marriage license.
- Pick a wedding hashtag.

1-2 WEEKS BEFORE

- Remind your caterer to order challah, wine, and any other needed ritual foods.
- Check in with guests who haven't RSVP'd.
- Confirm head counts, menus, and delivery with your caterers and bakers.
- Confirm your photo requests and timeline with your photographer.
- Make sure everyone who is delivering something to the wedding has a final timeline.
- Give all of your vendors an emergency number (not yours!).
- Assign a family member to be the photographer's point of contact.
- Make sure there is a plan for wedding venue setup and breakdown.
- Send [timeline](#) to bridal party.
- Pick up dress, have pressed or steamed if necessary
- Reconfirm arrival times with vendors.
- Set aside checks for vendors, put tips in envelopes if handing out at event
- Finalize [speeches](#).
- Send final guest list to caterer/venue.
- Assemble and distribute welcome baskets, if relevant.
- Put together basket for bathrooms, if doing.



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U L T I M A T E J E W I S H W E D D I N G C H E C K L I S T

DAY BEFORE

- Rehearse your ceremony with your officiant and wedding party.
- Print out your vows.
- Drop off favors, menus, table plans, and place cards with your caterer or venue.
- Get mani pedi.
- Put together bridal emergency kit and entrust to your maid of honor.
- Present attendants with gifts at the rehearsal dinner.

ON THE DAY

- Eat a good breakfast!
- Present parents and each other with gifts, if exchanging.
- Allow yourself plenty of time to get ready
- Give wedding bands to the best man and maid of honor to hold during the ceremony.
- Relax, smile, and soak in every incredible moment!

AFTER THE WEDDING

- Join [Smashing Life](#), our follow-on community for life after the wedding!
- Send out your thank-you notes (to people who helped with the wedding and for gifts).
- Make sure your vendors have been paid in full.
- If you loved your vendors, leave them reviews on Yelp, social media, etc.
- Ensure that rentals have been returned.
- Get wedding gown cleaned and either store or sell/donate.
- If you're changing your name, take care of the paperwork.
- [Submit your wedding to Smashing The Glass](#) – I can't wait to hear all about it!