

Sample Wedding Day Timeline

While this is just a sample timeline, it will give you an idea of how to lay out your own version for your big day!

9:00 a.m. – Venue Opens

10:00 a.m. – Hair and makeup artists arrive / getting ready

11:00 a.m. – Vendors arrive for setup

12:00 p.m. – Bride begins hair and makeup

1:00 p.m. – Photographer arrives; begins shooting getting-ready photos

2:15 p.m. – Bride gets into her wedding dress

2:40 p.m. – Couples' "first look" and portraits

3:30 p.m. – All wedding party members arrive at wedding venue

4:00 p.m. – Wedding party and family photos with the couple

4:30 p.m. – Guests begin to arrive/pre-ceremony music starts

5:00 p.m. – Ceremony start time

6:00 p.m. – Ceremony ends/cocktail hour begins (If no cocktail hour, replace with reception begins and move timeline up.)

7:00 p.m. – Cocktail hour ends/reception begins

7:15 p.m. – Newlyweds' introduction and first dance

7:25 p.m. – Dinner is served

7:30 p.m. – Cake Cutting

7:45 p.m. – Welcome toast

7:50 p.m. – Best man and maid of honor toasts

8:00 p.m. – Parent dances (father-daughter dance and mother-son dance) & special dances

8:10 p.m. – All guests invited onto the dance floor

9:00 p.m. – Fake Send Off

11:00 p.m. – Last song

11:05 p.m. – Guests depart

Midnight – Breakdown complete