A FREE PLANNING COMPANION

Your wedding, thoughtfully planned.

A practical guide for brides and couples planning in Toronto and the GTA.

Room for the moments that matter.

Checklists, a sample timeline and thoughtful photography advice to help you make decisions with confidence. You do not need a flawless wedding. You need a day that feels like yours.

By the WeDo team • October 2026 edition
Photography • Films • DJ + MC • Photo Booth

01 / START HERE

Plan around what matters.

Before you compare suppliers or save another inspiration photo, decide what you want to remember about the day.

• Choose three priorities together: time with your guests, a meaningful ceremony, photographs, food, music or something else entirely.

• Set a comfortable total budget before making deposits. Keep a separate allowance for changes and unexpected costs.

• Create an approximate guest count. It shapes your venue, catering, transport and the feel of the celebration.

• Agree who makes decisions, who contributes and who receives supplier updates. Keep one shared planning document.

Our three priorities

What we are happy to simplify

Wedding date / guest estimate / comfortable budget

02 / YOUR PLANNING CHECKLIST

One stage at a time.

These are planning windows, not deadlines. If your wedding is sooner, work through the same decisions in order.

Start with the foundations

• Agree budget, guest estimate, season and ceremony style.

• Confirm venue availability, accessibility, indoor backup and total costs.

• Book the suppliers essential to your priorities once the date is confirmed.

Build the day

• Choose outfits and allow time for fittings. Plan ceremony details with your officiant.

• Arrange photography, film, catering, music, flowers, hair and makeup as needed.

• Plan transport, accommodation information, invitations and accessibility needs.

The final 2-3 months

• Confirm local marriage requirements and licence timing with your municipality.

• Build the timeline with your venue and suppliers; confirm photo-location permissions.

• Collect RSVPs, dietary requirements and family photo names.

The final month and week

• Confirm final numbers, balances, delivery times and a weather decision deadline.

• Share one final timeline and contact sheet. Pack details and delegate day-of questions.

• Check outfits, rings, documents and transport. Leave room for meals and rest.

03 / SPENDING WITH INTENTION

Know the whole number.

Compare what is included, not just the starting price. Use written quotes and confirm the final scope before booking.

• For each supplier, record the quoted total, taxes, delivery or travel fees, deposit, balance date and any overtime rate.

• Ask about cancellation, rescheduling, replacements and what happens if the planned service cannot be delivered.

• Keep changes in writing. Confirm who can authorize extra hours or added services on the wedding day.

Budget worksheet

Category	Planned	Quoted total	Paid / due
Venue + food			
Photography + films			
Outfits + beauty			
Music + entertainment			
Flowers + decor			
Transport + stationery			
Other + reserve			

Your reserve is a planning choice, not a target to spend. Revisit the total whenever you change the guest count or add a service.

04 / YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY TEAM

Look beyond the highlights.

Your photographer will be close to you during important moments. Look for work you love and an approach that makes you comfortable.

See a complete wedding

Ask to see a full gallery with preparation, ceremony, family groups and evening images. Look for consistency across different lighting conditions.

Understand the coverage

Which parts of the day are included? Who will photograph it? Ask whether a second photographer would help with separate locations or simultaneous events.

Confirm the deliverables

Discuss the expected gallery, editing style, delivery window, downloads, print permissions, album options and image-use preferences. Put agreed details in the booking paperwork.

Talk through the plan

Share ceremony traditions, accessibility needs, family sensitivities and the people or details you most want remembered. Ask how weather and equipment contingencies are handled.

Make space for trust

Choose a short list of meaningful priorities. A long list of copied poses can crowd out the natural moments happening in front of you.

Our questions for the photography team

05 / A TIMELINE THAT BREATHES

Work backwards from the ceremony.

Illustrative schedule: a 3 p.m. ceremony, one main venue and a first look. These are suggested allowances, not a promise of coverage or a universal timetable.

Time	Plan
11:30 a.m.	Photography begins: details and preparation
12:15 p.m.	Getting dressed and individual portraits
1:00 p.m.	First look and couple portraits
1:45 p.m.	Wedding-party and immediate-family portraits
2:30 p.m.	Freshen up; guests arrive; ceremony preparation
3:00 p.m.	Ceremony
3:30 p.m.	Congratulations and any remaining family groups
4:15 p.m.	Cocktail hour and time with guests
5:30 p.m.	Reception entrance and dinner
During dinner	Speeches coordinated with catering and the MC
Evening	First dance and celebration; coverage ends as booked

• Add actual travel, parking, walking and transition time between locations.

• If you prefer no first look, move portraits after the ceremony and protect enough cocktail-hour time.

• Confirm sunset for your date and location before scheduling evening portraits. Winter daylight may call for an earlier portrait session.

06 / BEFORE THE CEREMONY

A calmer morning photographs beautifully.

A little preparation gives you more time with your people and fewer interruptions while you get ready.

• Choose one tidy area near a window for getting dressed. Keep bags, food and packaging in a different part of the room.

• Ask your beauty team when everyone should be ready. Tell the people helping you dress to be ready before that moment.

• Place the details you want photographed together: invitations, rings, shoes, jewellery, flowers and meaningful keepsakes.

• Tell your photographer about private moments or surprises in advance. You can also choose not to have certain parts photographed.

• Make time to eat and drink water. Give a trusted person the supplier contact sheet so you can put your phone away.

Details to set aside

Our morning contact person

07 / PEOPLE, NOT JUST POSES

Keep family photographs simple.

Write combinations using names, not only relationships. A relative or friend who knows everyone can help gather the next group.

• Start with the groups that include guests who would benefit from finishing sooner. Discuss mobility needs and a comfortable nearby meeting point.

• List the essential combinations first. Tell your photographer privately about family dynamics or people who should not be grouped together.

• Ask everyone on the list to stay close after the ceremony, or give them a clear time and location if photographs happen earlier.

• For couple portraits, tell your photographer how much direction you enjoy. Walking, talking or holding hands can be a comfortable starting point.

Our essential group list

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

08 / TORONTO & GTA LOGISTICS

Give your backup plan real details.

An indoor option is only useful if you know where it is, who approves it and how everyone gets there.

Rain, wind or cold

Agree on an indoor or covered portrait space with your venue. Confirm access, capacity, light, travel and any fee. Choose who makes the weather decision and by what time.

Photo permissions

Toronto requires permits for commercial or formal photography in City Parks and Recreation facilities. Requirements differ across GTA municipalities and private venues. Confirm the exact location, date and rules directly before committing.

Travel and comfort

Allow for traffic, parking and walking in wedding clothes. Consider step-free access, seating, washrooms and a nearby place to warm up or cool down.

Ceremony logistics

Check photography and video rules with your officiant or ceremony venue. Discuss flash restrictions, where the team can stand and how microphones may be used.

Our indoor location / permission contact / decision time

Official resource: City of Toronto wedding ceremonies and photography in parks. Checked October 30, 2026; confirm current requirements before booking.

09 / THE CELEBRATION

Let the reception flow.

Good communication between the venue, MC, DJ and photo/video team helps everyone be ready when the important moments happen.

• Give the MC the correct pronunciation of names and a final order of events. Ask speakers to agree on an approximate length in advance.

• Coordinate speeches with food service. Let the photo/video team know before entrances, dances, cake cutting or surprises begin.

• For films, discuss how vows and speeches will be recorded and where microphones can be placed. Follow venue and officiant requirements.

• Share a short music must-play list and a do-not-play list. Decide how guest requests should be handled.

• If you want special effects, confirm venue approval, operator responsibilities, placement and timing with the supplier before booking.

• For a photo booth, choose a visible location that does not block guest movement. Confirm space, power, setup access and operating hours.

Reception moments we want captured

10 / THE FINAL HANDOVER

One plan. Shared with the right people.

A concise final handover is more useful than a long chain of messages. Send it to the people who need it and keep a copy available offline.

- Final timeline with addresses, parking and entry instructions.
- Supplier names, day-of contacts and arrival times.
- Family photo combinations and the person gathering groups.
- Ceremony rules, traditions, accessibility needs and important surprises.
- Indoor photo plan and weather decision contact.
- Items to bring, who carries the rings and documents, and who collects belongings.
- Confirmed balances and any authorized overtime arrangements.

Our day-of decision maker and phone

Our three non-negotiable moments

11 / AFTER THE WEDDING

Make room to enjoy the memories.

Before the day, confirm how and when your photographs and film will be delivered. Afterwards, keep the next steps simple.

• Watch for delivery messages and follow the download instructions. Note any gallery access or download deadline.

• Save your delivered files in more than one place, including a separate backup. Keep the original downloaded versions.

• Choose favourites for prints or an album while the day is fresh. Ask about artwork options and proof approval if included in your agreement.

• Share images with the people who made the day special. Respect guests who prefer not to appear in public posts.

Questions to ask before you book

When should we expect delivery? How do we download full-resolution files? What personal print rights are included? How long is the gallery available? How are album designs and revisions handled?

Delivery details and album ideas

Need help planning your photography?

Tell us your date, venue and what matters most to you.
Check availability at wedo.ca/contact-us
416-270-9245 • daniel@wedo.ca

12 / YOUR NEXT STEPS

Keep it personal. Keep it practical.

Use this guide as a conversation starter with your partner and suppliers. Adjust every suggestion to fit your ceremony, culture, priorities and schedule.

This week: three decisions we can make

Questions we still need answered

Useful official resources

Ontario: Getting married

Check current licence and officiant requirements with the province and your municipality.

Toronto: Wedding ceremonies and photography in parks

Confirm current location availability, permissions and conditions directly.

Prepared by WeDo Photography, October 2026. Planning times are suggestions and are not package inclusions. Supplier terms and local requirements should be confirmed for your own wedding. Photography © WeDo. You may download and print this guide for personal wedding planning.

Your wedding. Your people. Your story.

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