PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

The Just-Engaged Checklist

The weeks between the yes and the wedding planning — in the order that saves feelings.

◆ PRINT IT · CHECK IT OFF · BREATHE ◆

Tell people in the right order

The one part of this chapter that really is time-sensitive.

- [ ] **Decide together who hears first.** Usually parents and children, then siblings and grandparents.
- [ ] **Call or visit the inner circle.** Before any public post.
- [ ] **Then tell close friends.** Group texts are fine at this stage.
- [ ] **Post publicly last.** Only after everyone important already knows.
- [ ] **Write down how it happened.** While the details are fresh.

Look after the ring

Small, valuable, easy to lose. Treat it that way.

- [ ] **Get it insured.** A standalone jewelry policy or a rider on renters or homeowners insurance.
- [ ] **Keep the paperwork.** Receipt, appraisal and any certificate.
- [ ] **Get it sized if it doesn't fit.** A loose ring is easily lost.
- [ ] **Photograph it.** Close up, from a few angles.

NOTES

The honest conversations

No decisions needed yet — just no surprises later.

- [ ] **Talk about the kind of wedding you each picture.** Size, setting, formality.
- [ ] **Talk about money.** What you can spend, and whether family will help.
- [ ] **Talk about timing.** Engagements of a year or more are common.
- [ ] **Start a shared savings goal if you need one.** Even a rough number helps.

The engagement party

Optional, and smaller than a wedding.

- [ ] **Decide whether you want one.** And who is hosting.
- [ ] **Keep the guest list to people who will be invited to the wedding.** This is the one firm rule of etiquette here.
- [ ] **Pick the venue, date and food.** A home, a restaurant room, a backyard.
- [ ] **Track RSVPs.** Even for a small gathering.

NOTES

Engagement photos

Useful for save-the-dates, and a good trial run.

- [ ] **Decide whether you want them.** They are optional.
- [ ] **Choose a location that means something.** Where you met, a favorite place.
- [ ] **Plan outfits and a shot list.** Two outfits is plenty.
- [ ] **Time them for save-the-dates.** If you plan to use them that way.

Before wedding planning starts

A running start, without the pressure.

- [ ] **Start a wishlist of venues and dates.** Capacity, rough price, what you liked.
- [ ] **Agree on a rough guest count.** A number, not a list.
- [ ] **Start one shared folder.** For quotes, ideas and contracts.
- [ ] **Enjoy it.** This part is short.

> **If you take one thing from this checklist:** tell the inner circle before you post. It is the one part of being newly engaged that cannot be undone, and a few phone calls are all it takes.

NOTES

WHEN PAPER STOPS BEING ENOUGH

This checklist can't keep track of who knows.

Paper is perfect for the first few days. Then the announcement list grows, the party needs a budget and an RSVP list, and the venue ideas end up spread across screenshots.

The MDRN Engagement Planner

An announcement tracker, a live budget, engagement party and photo-shoot planners, and a venue and date wishlist. Opens in any browser. No account, no subscription.

mdrn-milestone-website.vercel.app/planners/engagement.html

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